

### **13<sup>th</sup> May**

Among Afghanistan's daunting health problems, tuberculosis looms large as its greatest cause of death. It is estimated that at least 15,000 people in the country and an unknown number of Afghan refugees die from TB each year.

The police have arrested more than 400 Afghans in a major crackdown on illegal immigrants parallel to the sweep of Islamic militants that began after a suicide bus bombing killed 14 people in Karachi, officials said.

### **15<sup>th</sup> May**

UN officials say that, after decades of war and several recent earthquakes, Afghanistan's crops are now being threatened by swarms of locusts.

### **17<sup>th</sup> May**

The Pentagon has informed the US Congress that the war in Afghanistan has cost 17 billion dollars since it began in October last year, The Washington Post reported.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> May**

Home going Afghan refugees have complained about misbehavior and inhuman treatment by the Iranian officials and security personnel during their return to Herat from Iran, BBC reports (SANA).



# ACBAR



## News Summary For June-2002

### Aid and Economic Development

#### 1<sup>st</sup> June

Afghanistan and the International Civil Aviation Organization signed a deal to rebuild the airport in the country's capital, Kabul, and reinstate air traffic control services.

The Afghan government will pay \$8.2 million U.S. for the project (NNI).

More than 800,000 Afghan refugees have returned home in the last three months, an astonishing repatriation rate that is straining the resources of aid agencies operating in Afghanistan.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Iranian Roads and Transportation Minister Ahmad Khorram and Afghan Minister of Public Welfare Abdolkhaliq Fazel inaugurated a second border for international transit between Iran and Afghanistan in the region of Milak.

Next month, on a date yet to be agreed, Britain will hand over command of the 18-nation UN security force in Afghanistan to Turkey.

The world food program has warned of food security in Afghanistan.

The UN, donor agency said it faced a food shortage of more than 50,000 tonnes wheat (PPI).

An International Refugees agency IOM has postponed its activities in Afghanistan due to shortage of funds (PPI).

A Tokyo students group hopes to use the World Cup to cheer up kids in Afghanistan.

The Afghan-Project 2002 club planes to send soccer equipment, televisions and satellite dishes to the war-torn country to enable children there to watch the World Cup, reports Japan Times (NNI).

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> June

An Edinburgh-based broadcaster has helped a new radio station in the heart of war-torn Afghanistan get on the airwaves. Equipments formerly used by Radio Forth are now being used for broadcasts from the heart of the Afghan capital. (Agencies).

The UAE Red Crescent Society, RCS, helped 600 refugees to return home as part of the ongoing efforts aimed at helping those who wanted to return to their homes after stability had been established (Agencies).

#### 4<sup>th</sup> June

The Afghan Ministry of public welfare, commenced operations to reconstruct three main highways connecting the capital Kabul to the eastern, southern, southwestern and northern regions of the country.

Lasting peace and stability will act as a magnet to private businesses whose involvement is vital for the reconstruction of war-torn Afghanistan, Interim leader, Hamid Karzai said on Monday (AFP).

#### 5<sup>th</sup> June

International donors are failing to live up to their pledges for Afghanistan, with the short fall running into hundreds of millions of dollars, the United Nation has said (PPI)

The provisional government of Hamid Karzai faces greatest challenge, that is, timely payment of the salaries to the government employees. The government however, is doing its best to do so before the employees lost faith in the Kabul rulers (NNI).

As the holding of Loya Jirga is drawing closer, Afghani (Afghan currency) has started gaining strength and the currency dealers are expecting further rise in its value with the beginning of the grand assembly (APP).

#### 9<sup>th</sup> June

Russian emergency teams delivered up to 7,500 tonnes of UN food aid to northern Afghanistan from the neighboring republic of Tajikistan between March and May (APP).

The UN Security Council appealed for urgent contribution to finance next week's grand assembly in Afghanistan to choose a new government.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> June

The UN has made it possible for the inhabitants of Kabul to follow the football World Cup 2002 via three giant TV screens.

The United States has asked Japan to send medical and construction units of the Ground Self Defense Force (GSDF) to Afghanistan as part of efforts to help the reconstruction of the war-torn country (NNI).

#### 11<sup>th</sup> June

The International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) has reconstructed several education institutions in Kabul. A large number of boys and girls are studying in these institutions (PPI).

A California based non-profit group is restarting a program to provide artificial limbs and bicycles to Afghan amputees (AP).

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that war-torn Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest countries, faces a potential AIDS disaster.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> June

The international-development arm of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada is to receive \$50,000 from the Quebec government to finance a new orphanage in Afghanistan (NNI).

#### 14<sup>th</sup> June

Afghanistan will soon send its judges and law-drafters to India to train them in the intricacies of justice delivery system in a bid to resurrect the judicial and legal establishment in the war-ravaged country (NNI).

The US Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) has committed \$11.5 million as quick impact cash for work projects for fiscal year 2002, aimed at alleviating the combined effects of the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA)'s poppy eradication program and drought.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> June

South Korea will send seven military medical experts and equipments to Afghanistan to help the war-torn country to build up its army, the defense ministry said (APP).

#### 17<sup>th</sup> June

The UN Development Program will provide a total of \$51.9 million to assist the Afghan Interim Administration by the end of this month, an official of the program said (NNI).

#### 18<sup>th</sup> June

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has planned provision of \$300 million to Afghanistan for 2003-2004 depending on the review of this initial strategy through the Initial Country Strategy and Program (ICSP) update process.

Japanese government representative Sadako Ogata pledged Japan's total support for Afghanistan's reconstruction in talks with the country's leader Hamid Karzai.

The European Commission announced on Monday it would allocate another 9.25 million euros (\$8.7 million) for humanitarian operations in Afghanistan to help refugees (AP).

#### 20<sup>th</sup> June

UNDP with the help of governments of Italy, the Netherlands and the US, is providing the Afghanistan Assistance Coordination Authority (AACA) a donor assistance database (<http://aa-ccadad.undp.org>). The database aims to enable the Afghanistan Interim Administration (AIA) to track the flow of aid to Afghanistan.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> June

The European Commission decided to contribute 22 million euro to help refugees and internally

displaced persons return home in Afghanistan (NNI).

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> June**

German soldiers are helping refurbishing a shattered school in a village near Kabul, as rebuilding damaged infrastructure becomes an important task of the peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan (NNI)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> June**

Central Board of Revenue (CBR) has issued a number of SRO's to facilitate free flow of Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan (APP).

Pakistan has offered its assistance to work for the reconstruction of Afghanistan (NNI).

#### **24<sup>th</sup> June**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) this week restarted providing return assistance to internally displaced Afghans following pledges of new funding from several donors.

#### **25<sup>th</sup> June**

Special Representative of the European Union in Afghanistan Dr. Klaus-Peter Klaiber has pledged that EU commission would fulfill its aid promises to the war-ravaged country this year, adding that more than half of its 200 million U.S. dollar donations for 2002 had been delivered (NNI).

#### **26<sup>th</sup> June**

The United Nation High Commission for refugees (UNHCR) has said that the budget allocated for helping Afghan refugees in their repatriation to the country has been exhausted and it needs \$100 million more to resolve the problem.

Japan said it would provide three million dollars in emergency aid to a UN body to back recovery efforts in Kandahar, southern Afghanistan (AFP).

#### **27<sup>th</sup> June**

Pak-Afghan Relief and development (PARD) will provide assistance to Afghan refugees till they are in Pakistan, said its project, manager, Fayaz Kanwal (Bureau Report).

#### **30<sup>th</sup> June**

The World Health Organization appealed for \$1.2 million to fight a major Afghan outbreak of the disfiguring skin disease leishmaniasis.

### **Political Development**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> June**

Two of Afghanistan's most powerful Jihadi leaders Burhanuddin Rabbani and Abdur Rab Rasool Sayaf have been elected to the Loya Jirga.

Afghanistan has decided to set up its first independent National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to probe past and present abuses in the war-ravaged country (NNI).

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Haji Badshah Khan Zadran, a known sentimental supporter of former king M. Zahir Shah but controversial figure in the interim set up, has been elected to the Loya Jirga from his native Woza district of Paktya province of Afghanistan.

The leader of Afghanistan's interim administration, Hamid Karzai, looks likely to retain his position as head of government at this month's tribal assembly election (APP).

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> June**

The Chinese embassy in Kabul on Sunday resumed its visa services after a suspension of nearly 10 years (NNI).

Former Afghan king Mohammad Zahir Shah is postponing a planned trip to two major cities this week because of ill health (F.P.report).

Key commanders in Afghanistan have nominated interim leader Hamid Karzai to be their candidate as the next head of state.

Afghan warlords, cabinet ministers and former king Mohammad Zahir Shah are Afghanistan's entire backing interim leader Hamid Karzai to head the war-torn country's next administration, the foreign minister said.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> June**

Election to select delegates to Afghanistan's Loya Jirga, the traditional assembly that will meet next week to pick a new transitional

government will finish today a UN spokesman said.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> June

Zalmay Khalilzad, US special envoy for Afghanistan has dismissed reports of al-Qaeda men presence in Pakistan.

China believes that peace in Afghanistan in right direction, said President Jiang during his meeting with the Afghan leader Karzai at Almaty.

Afghanistan's former king M. Zahir Shah will inaugurate next week's Loya Jirga grand assembly with a call for unity in the divided country, his chief lieutenant said (AFP).

The Afghan Commission for Human Rights (ACHR) has asked the government of Pakistan to help stop police excesses against the Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> June

A prominent local commander of Eastern Afghanistan, Bacha Khan Zadran has urged ex-Afghan Monarch Zahir Shah to become the head of the state during the interim period (PPI).

Iranian President, M. Khatami's planned visit to Kabul has been delayed (AFP).

Afghanistan's interim government would not take sides in the event of a conflict breaking out between neighboring Pakistan and India, Foreign Minister Abdullah said (AFB).

#### 8<sup>th</sup> June

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson on Friday welcomed the establishment of an independent human rights commission in Afghanistan.

Iran is ready for any kind of cooperation with the future transitional government of Afghanistan to be chosen by the Loya Jirga, Iran's Ambassador to Kabul M. Ebrahim Taherian said in a meeting with Chairman Interim Administration Hamid Karzai (PPI).

#### 9<sup>th</sup> June

The government will dispatch Sadako Ogata, former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to Afghanistan on June 13 to monitor the progress of the Loya Jirga, the foreign ministry announced (NNI).

#### 10<sup>th</sup> June

Afghanistan's former king, M. Zahir Shah, has thrown his support behind interim ruler Hamid Karzai, who is widely expected to be named leader of the next government at this week's Loya Jirga grand assembly.

Afghan Defense Minister Qasim Fahim Saturday said his powerful Shura-i- Nazar faction would support the interim administration leader Hamid Karzai in the future administration which is poised to take shape after elected representatives to the Loya Jirga formally meet for its first session on Monday.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> June

Afghanistan's former king M. Zahir Shah said Monday he would not be a candidate for the role of head of state in Afghanistan's Loya Jirga, which is to select a new transitional government (APP).

The opening of Afghanistan's Loya Jirga, which is to select a new transitional government, has been delayed till Tuesday because of logistical issues, a foreign ministry spokesman said (APP).

Since January this year, over 1.1 million Afghans have repatriated to the homeland.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> June

Afghanistan's former king M. Zahir Shah addressed the long-awaited Loya Jirga tribal assembly Tuesday. Saying he had no desire to restore the monarchy and affirmed his backing for interim leader Hamid Karzai.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> June

Afghanistan's independent news agency "Arya Press" has formally launched its news service in capital Kabul (SANA).

Doctor Massouda Jalal is to make Afghan history on Wednesday when she becomes the first woman to stand for head of state (AFB).

#### 14<sup>th</sup> June

After hectic debate of around 20 hours, the delegates of historic Loya Jirga Thursday elected a five-member team to conduct further formal proceeding.

Prof. Mohammad Ismail Qasamyar has been elected head of the team by getting 881 out of 1525 polled votes.

A historic Loya Jirga Thursday late night, formally nominated the chairman of Afghan

interim administration Hamid Karzai, as the new head of state.

The chair of the Loya Jirga, Ismail Qasimyar announced the decision. He said that Karzai won 1,295 votes from a total of 1,575 votes cast. The other two candidates presented only a token challenge to Karzai with Massouda Jalal taking 171 votes and Mir Mahsooz Nedayee getting 89 only.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> June

Afghanistan's Loya Jirga was due to begin selecting the make-up of a new transitional government Friday after voting overwhelmingly for Hamid Karzai as the head of state (AFP).

#### 16<sup>th</sup> June

UN secretary General Kofi Annan has congratulated Karzai on his election as Afghanistan's president and urged Afghans to keep pursuing national reconciliation by peaceful means (NNI).

#### 17<sup>th</sup> June

The Afghan emergency Loya Jirga flooded with heated discussions about the formation of the national assembly and there was a clear disagreement over various positions of the interim national assembly (NNI).

#### 18<sup>th</sup> June

Ismail Khan, a prominent commander and governor of the Herat province has urged the need for merit in the formation of future Afghan cabinet, not on grouping and power.

#### 19<sup>th</sup> June

US envoy Zalmi Khalilzad said on Tuesday Afghanistan's Loya Jirga must have the final say on president Hamid Karzai's key cabinet posts, expected to be announced later in the afternoon. "Based on the Bonn agreement"

#### 20<sup>th</sup> June

Hamid Karzai was sworn in Wednesday as president of Afghanistan's new transitional Administration in a ceremony, which marked the end of the nine-day Loya Jirga grand assembly (AFP).

Resolving the ethnically contentious of his executive Cabinet, Afghan leader Hamid Karzai on Wednesday reappointed the interim government's defense and foreign ministers for

an 18-month transitional administration and named a Pashtun governor as interior minister.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> June

New Afghan president Hamid Karzai was Thursday fine-tuning his cabinet after completing a delicate balancing act to win approval for his key ministers at the end of Afghanistan's Loya Jirga (AFP).

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai has said that he would resign if he could not bring peace and security to the country, which is slowly recovering after 23 years of war.

#### 24<sup>th</sup> June

The new and controversial Afghan Cabinet announced by Afghan President Hamid Karzai include 29 Ministers, one special Adviser and three Vice-presidents.

Vice –Presidents: General M. Fahim, Karim Khalili, and Haji Ab. Qadeer.

Special Adviser: Younes Qanooni, Adviser on Internal Security to the President.

The Afghan embassy in Islamabad has appointed a team to collect details regarding Afghan prisoners in Pakistani jails, a diplomat said (F.P. Report).

#### 25<sup>th</sup> June

During the last four months, about one million Afghan refugees have gone back to their country from Pakistan under voluntary repatriation, said a United Nations official (NNI).

#### 27<sup>th</sup> June

As UN High Commission attempts to collect more funds to sustain the refugee repatriation, the number of Afghan leaving for their homeland has exceeded more than million.

#### 28<sup>th</sup> June

The Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, has appointed a third woman to his transitional government. Habiba Sorabi was appointed minister for women's affairs, replacing Sima Samar, a presidential spokesman said (PPI).

#### 29<sup>th</sup> June

UN special envoy for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi was Thursday granted Afghan citizenship and diplomatic passport for his role in bringing peace to the country, president Hamid Karzai said (APP).

### 30<sup>th</sup> June

Afghanistan has regained its seat in the Organization of the Islamic conference after a gap of more than five years (SANA).

## **Security Matters**

### 1<sup>st</sup> June

The coalition forces in Afghanistan have seized Number of weapons during a military operation in Khost airport. The captured weapons include the rockets recently fired on Khost airport (NNI).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Us forces have found a cache of 30 Chinese-made shoulder-fired SA-7-to-air missiles in southeastern Afghanistan, a Pentagon official claimed (NNI).

A bomb exploded outside the provincial governor's office in the southern Afghan city of Kanawha on Saturday but there were no casualties or damage reported (F.P. report).

The US military said three armed Afghan killed in a firefight with US and Afghan soldiers in eastern Afghanistan Friday were neither al-Qaeda nor Taliban as had been suspected (APP).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> June

US-led forces were hunting for Islamic militants in the rugged eastern Afghanistan frontier after Pakistan said it would likely move troops from there to its border with India (Afghan news agency).

### 4<sup>th</sup> June

New commander of US-led forces in Afghanistan, Lt Gen. McInini said that the United States had no plan to deploy the coalition forces in the entire Afghanistan for the restoration of peace in that country.

Two missiles were fired from unknown locations at a camp of the US troops at Gardez; headquarter of Paktia province, in the early hours of Monday. However, no loss of life was reported.

The US forces operating in the coalition against terrorism said on Monday they had killed one

Afghan man in an overnight encounter in the country's east (AFP).

### 5<sup>th</sup> June

Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Omar was spotted recently in Afghanistan' south-western Helmand province, where British troops have been seeking him (IRNA news agency reported).

Four rockets were fired at a military base used by US-led coalition forces, but all failed to hit the airfield (NNI).

Defense secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said that Saudi extremist Osama bin Laden "does not seem to be formally directed al-Qaeda operations, even though there is "no doubt" the terrorist network remains active around the globe.

More than 200 Turkish troops landed in the Afghan capital just after dawn Tuesday, the main body of an expanded contingent that will take command of the international force guarding Kabul later this month.

### 6<sup>th</sup> June

The German government said Wednesday that it would extend the mandate of its peacekeeping contingent in Afghanistan by six months, and slightly increase the number of troops in the force.

Mulla M. Usman, adviser to the former Taliban governor of Nangarhar province, was ambushed Tuesday on the road between Peshawar and the border town of Torkham, Police said.

More than 5,000members of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are now stationed in Kabul as Turkey prepares to take over the leadership of the multinational force.

### 7<sup>th</sup> June

The Slovak government has agreed to send a unit of army engineers to join the US-led anti-terrorism operation in Afghanistan later this year (NNI).

### 8<sup>th</sup> June

US and British Special Forces have seized an arms Cache at a suspected al-Qaeda base in southern Afghanistan and made five arrests (PPI).

#### **9<sup>th</sup> June**

US troops have started new operation in eastern Afghanistan to cut off escape route of Al-Qaeda members to Pakistan (PPI).

A 25-member team of Afghan military officers graduated from a crash course offered by the Spanish military service and headed for Kabul.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> June**

British marines in Afghanistan have blown up part of what they say is one of the longest tunnel and cave network used by al-Qaeda and Taleban (PPI).

Afghanistan's interim leader Hamid Karzai said Sunday he hoped to track down al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden before the fugitive could carry out another attack.

#### **13<sup>th</sup> June**

A US military plane crashed in Afghanistan, Pentagon spokesman David Lapan said.

Russian border guards at Tajikistan border with Afghanistan fired on a group of armed men attempting early Wednesday to cross the river that forms part of the frontier (AP).

#### **14<sup>th</sup> June**

A U.S Special Forces team injured and captured one man after coming under fire in southeastern Afghanistan, a military official said.

#### **16<sup>th</sup> June**

United Nations envoy Lakhdar Brahimi added his voice to calls for multinational security troops to be deployed throughout Afghanistan.

#### **17<sup>th</sup> June**

Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden will be found, according to the commander of Australia's Special Air Service Regiment (NNI).

#### **18<sup>th</sup> June**

International aid workers are threatening to pull out of northern Afghanistan after a female worker was gang raped, a clinic was attacked by gunman, and a vehicle carrying food for the hungry was shot up, the United Nation said. All three attacks occurred in the past week in northern Afghanistan he said.

#### **19<sup>th</sup> June**

US special operations forces killed two people who opened fire on them as they patrolled a

former Taliban stronghold north of Kandahar, a US military spokesman said (AFP).

#### **20<sup>th</sup> June**

Russian border guards killed three Afghan drug traffickers who were trying to smuggle opium across the Tajik-Afghan border, an official said. Britain is set to start reducing its troop levels in Afghanistan within the next few days after handing over control of the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to Turkey, Defense' Geoff Hoon has confirmed (NNI).

Several rockets have been fired at the Afghan capital, Kabul, where the meeting of the country's traditional grand assembly, or Loya Jirga, is winding up its proceedings (NNI).

#### **21<sup>st</sup> June**

Turkey has taken over leadership of the peacekeeping force in Afghanistan. Replacing the UK (PPI).

Almost 70 relief agencies have appealed jointly to the Security Council to extend the international force in Afghanistan to areas outside the capital where banditry is rife.

"Our workers have been attacked and sexually assaulted, our property has been looted and our convoys carrying lifesaving goods have been shot at, hijacked and stolen" they wrote in a letter to council members.

The letter was signed by Ian Purves, executive coordinator of the Agency Coordination Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) in the Afghan capital Kabul, and made available here on Thursday (AFP).

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> June**

China has refuted the US media reports, which said that there were 30 China made missiles among the arms recovered from al-Qaeda's hideout in Afghanistan (PPI).

The US forces arrested eight suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda members in the north of Gardez, central city of eastern Afghan province of Paktia (NNI)

#### **24<sup>th</sup> June**

Abdul Rashid Dostum wants an international peacekeeping force extended from the capital to his troubled Mazar-e-Sharif base in the north, the



new Turkish chief of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said (Reuters).

#### **25<sup>th</sup> June**

Russian border guards killed two people who tried to cross the border from Afghanistan into the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan (AP).

Top US military commander General Tommy Franks arrived in the Afghan capital on Monday for talks with new transitional President Hamid Karzai and Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim (AFP).

#### **26<sup>th</sup> June**

Foreign female aid workers have been withdrawn from field missions in Afghanistan's volatile north following a series of attacks on aid staff including a gang-rape, a UN official said (AFP).

#### **27<sup>th</sup> June**

Police force of the capital city of eastern province of Afghanistan, Nangarhar, is preparing a new security plan to further strengthen the security of the important city and to maintain the law and order situation in real sense (PPI).

#### **28<sup>th</sup> July**

There won't be any conventional fireworks in Afghanistan on July 4 as US forces in the country go on alert for America's Independence day.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> June**

A pre-dawn explosion shook the outskirts of the capital Kabul early Saturday but no one was killed or injured, ISAF said (AFP).

The United States partners are contributing more than 8,000 troops for Operation Enduring in Afghanistan and to the ISAF in Kabul (PPI).

### **Other News**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> June**

The UN estimates that up to 3,000 tonnes of opium will be reaped in Afghanistan's spring Harvest, the UN's Antonella Deledda told reporters.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> June**

World Food Program has demanded 150,000 tonnes wheat donation from Pakistan.

The UN assured Afghan refugees pouring home from Pakistan that their repatriation would not be affected by the pull out UN staff family members.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> June**

The first group of Afghan refugees left Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia for their homeland (NNI).

#### **9<sup>th</sup> June**

At least 50 persons were drowned and five others wounded when a passenger bus carrying six unfortunate families of Afghan refugees, fell into Kabul River.

#### **13<sup>th</sup> June**

Afghan athletes have been officially invited to participate in the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in South Korea later this year (OCA has said).

#### **17<sup>th</sup> June**

Afghanistan and other Central Asia nations have stepped up efforts against opium poppy growers and drug traffickers, the UN drug control agency said.

#### **20<sup>th</sup> June**

Afghanistan's minister of women affairs, Dr. Sima Samar has rejected claims by Islamic hardliners that she does not believe in Islamic Sharia law (Agencies).

#### **25<sup>th</sup> June**

The Jam minaret in Afghanistan is among 11 places which Unesco Plans to designate World Heritage Sites this week (AFP).

#### **27<sup>th</sup> June**

The former queen Homaira of Afghanistan, wife of M. Zahir Shah, died in Rome on Wednesday at the age of 86, two days after being hospitalized for heart troubles, her family said (AFP).



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## News Summary For August-2002

### Aid and Economic Development

#### 1<sup>st</sup> August

Afghan Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdullah, summing up results of his last week's visit to the United States, said the visit managed to attract more international aid including US private sector investment to reconstruct his war-shattered country. The Bush administration, he said, has proposed to the US Congress a further 150-million-dollar aid package for the rehabilitation of Afghanistan, reports IRNA. (NNI)

Japanese students at Tezukayama Gakuin Middle School are raising funds to build a school for girls in the Bamiyan region of Afghanistan. Save the Children Japan in Kita Ward, Osaka, a non-government organization active in Afghanistan, is supporting the fund-raising effort. (NNI)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> August

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has delivered 13 truckloads of medical aid, worth \$1 million, to Afghanistan as part of emergency relief. (NNI)

Islamabad has offered to undertake two mega projects, including the renovation-cum-construction of the Jalalabad-Kabul road and renovation of another road linking Chaman with Turkmenistan via Kandahar and Herat. (APP)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> August

The spiritual leader of the Ismaili community, Agha Khan, will finance the construction of five bridges linking Tajikistan and Afghanistan across the Painj River. (AFP)

A US Senate panel has approved \$2.5 billion for Afghan reconstruction aid, and has urged President Bush to work for an expansion of the peacekeeping force there. (NNI)

#### 5<sup>th</sup> August

The UNHCR is in high gear to distribute shelter items for up to 400,000 returned Afghan refugees who find their homes destroyed. (NNI)

Federal Minister for Communication and Railways, Lt. Gen. Javed Ashraf Qazi, said Pakistan has offered Afghanistan assistance in construction of roads from Torkhum to Kabul and Chaman to Kandahar. Afghan authorities have been asked to indicate their requirements and the needed level of road construction. The cost of the road construction would be met from a Rs. 100 million fund offered by Pakistan to Afghanistan. (APP)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> August

A Germany funded radio station, "Voice of Freedom", started to broadcast in Kabul in both Dari and Pushto, two official languages in Afghanistan. (NNI)

WFP expects a food shortage of about 60,000 mt in Afghanistan by November if donors do not step up their help, a WFP spokesman told IRIN. (NNI)



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## News Summary For February-2002

### Aid and Economic Development

#### 1<sup>st</sup> February

Afghan interim leader Hamed Karzai has appealed to Saudi Arabia to facilitate the entry of 15000 Afghans to perform the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) will support a variety of humanitarian and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan in its share of the US government over all contribution to the struggling Central Asian Nation. According to the USDA.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> February

According to UNDP, the multilateral donors including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and United Nation Development Programme, have planned to provide US \$ 900 million to clear landmines in war devastated Afghanistan within three next years.

More than 100,000 Afghans have returned homeland from refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran in the past two months, according to the UNHCR.

Turkey will provide equipment and uniforms for a newly formed Afghan national army and send special team to Afghanistan to train the new force. According to a military official.

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> February

A group from the Saudi Red Crescent, using fund donated by King Fund has begun distributing aid to Afghans left impoverished by

drought and more than two decades of war. According to a Saudi Arab Official.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> February

The UNICEF plans to transform the educational infrastructure of Afghanistan and get more than two million children back to school by March. According to UNICEF.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> February

The united Nations WFP announced a new US \$ 285 million operation to assist million of Afghans beyond the current crisis. The operation aims to provide immediate relief as well as long term rehabilitation and reconstruction. According to WFP.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> February

German industrial and electronics conglomerate Siemens AG is in the running for an estimated 40 million Euro (US \$ 35 million) contracts to install a telephone network in the Afghan capital Kabul.

The UN WHO has been distributing lifesaving medicines, surgical instruments and other medical supplies in remote areas of Afghanistan where basic health care is woefully inadequate by using donkeys and helicopters.

International Pediatric Association in collaboration with member organizations organized a master trainer course in Peshawar for Afghan doctors and Refugee paramedics working in refugee camps in Pakistan.

Pakistan dispatched 900 metric tonnes of wheat to Kabul as part of a \$100 million commitment it pledged at the Japan Conference to assist Afghanistan in its reconstruction and rehabilitation. (APP)

A senior UN official has launched a stinging attack on Western bureaucracy for blocking millions of pounds of aid from reaching the starving and destitute in Afghanistan. (SANA)

#### 7<sup>th</sup> August

The Iranian Parliament has approved \$475 million as financial aid to Afghanistan following a factional dispute inside the parliament between pro-reform MPs and conservatives who strongly opposed the move.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> August

Iran and Afghanistan signed an agreement to work together on a project to replace poppy cultivation with other legal crops. (NNI)

#### 9<sup>th</sup> August

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah has appealed to the international community to move faster in delivering its aid promises to the war-torn country so that the Afghan government can bring real changes to the life of its people. (SANA)

#### 10<sup>th</sup> August

Japan will send two people to Afghanistan to help the war-torn country's efforts to remove antipersonnel land mines, the Foreign Ministry announced.

Russia is planning to play a vital role in the development of oil and gas sectors of Afghanistan. (SANA)

The United States is criticizing European countries for not doing enough to assist 1.5 million Afghans who have returned home from foreign refugee camp. US Assistant Secretary of State Gene Dewey says the lack of money could force many Afghans to leave again. (NNI)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> August

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government of Afghanistan are preparing several priorities, including the rehabilitation of the critically important Kabul-Kandahar-Spin Boldak road, as part of ADB's assistance program for Afghanistan. (NNI)

Iranian and Afghan officials have discussed ways and means for expanding bilateral cooperation in agriculture sector. (PPI)

#### 13<sup>th</sup> August

Herat University is emerging again as a center for higher learning in western Afghanistan. (SANA)

#### 14<sup>th</sup> August

Afghan Television began broadcast of a foreign news segment in local languages Dari and Pushto. From Berlin, Germany. 10 minutes daily newscast will be transmitted to Kabul via satellite. DW TV also plans weekly delivery of 90 minutes of documentaries in Afghan language. (PPI)

#### 16<sup>th</sup> August

Aiming to bolster maternity health services as refugees stream back to war-ravaged Afghanistan, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has set up an emergency mobile hospital in Kabul, a UN spokesman has announced. (NNI)

#### 17<sup>th</sup> August

Dhaka-based NGO BRAC will assist the Afghan government in its strategic planning exercise to develop an extensive plan to effectively address the post-war development challenges of that country. (PPI)

#### 18<sup>th</sup> August

The world leading humanitarian group CARE has urged President Bush to release \$174 million in congressionally approved money for reconstruction and refugee assistance in Afghanistan. (SANA)

A group of professors from five Japanese women's universities will visit Afghanistan for 10 days beginning Aug. 24 to prepare a training program for female Afghan teachers that will be held in Japan next year, Ochanomizu University said. (NNI)

#### 19<sup>th</sup> August

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) is to help rebuild rural Afghanistan and will be spending \$84,000 in its first year. The initial projects will include primary schools, health centers and micro-finance programs. The organization BRAC is the largest NGO in Bangladesh, with expertise in post-war relief and rehabilitation. It is the first NGO from a

developing country to be invited by Afghanistan to help it rebuild after decades of war. (PPI)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> August**

Americans have donated more than \$10.3 million to aid Afghan children in the 10 months since President Bush asked them to help in a televised address. (SANA)

#### **21<sup>st</sup> August**

Afghanistan's war-hit national carrier, Ariana Afghan Airlines, will soon tap new flying destinations thanks to three Air India Airbus officials said Tuesday. (AFP)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> August**

The Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society (KRCS) on Wednesday sent 10 tons of school supplies to Afghanistan as part of efforts to help rebuild the war-battered country's educational infrastructure. (NNI)

Thousands of families of Afghan asylum seekers in the UK are to be given up to 2, 500 Sterling pounds to help them return home. (PPI)

Bulgaria has donated a large number of weapons and ammunition to the Afghan National army, an example of the international community's commitment to help the country, a US military spokesman said. (AP)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> August**

A high level delegation headed by Chairman Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Tariq Ikram, will visit Afghanistan from August 25, with the objective to explore opportunities for the Pakistan trade and industry in Afghanistan's reconstruction program. (NNI)

#### **24<sup>th</sup> August**

Negotiations of "Rosneft" and "Itera" with the representatives of the government of Afghanistan signed a protocol according to which those companies at the expense of Russia should study the technical condition of Afghanistan's gas-fields and gas pipelines and to work out the documentation for their restoration. According to an Afghan online report, the value of explored oil and gas resources in Afghanistan is estimated at \$22 billion

#### **25<sup>th</sup> August**

Construction work on a bridge linking Afghanistan with its northern neighbor, Tajikistan, over the border river 'Panj' has been

started on the Afghanistan side, at Badakhshan Province. (SANA)

The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) Logistics Unit has sent 66 metric tonnes of medicines and medical supplies to Afghanistan. (NNI)

The European Commission has announced another package of humanitarian aid for vulnerable Afghans living inside the country, and as refugees in neighboring states. Euro 16.72 million has been allocated to support a series of actions, including assistance for people returning home, support for drought affected population and logistics.

#### **26<sup>th</sup> August**

A Pakistan trade delegation left on Sunday for Kabul for talks to enhance exports to Afghanistan and to explore ways to reconstruct the war-ravaged country. (F.P Report)

#### **27<sup>th</sup> August**

UNICEF has announced a major contribution to the inter-agency effort in support of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the south of Afghanistan for support of both displaced and returnee communities in various fields. (NNI)

Chief of UK-based Muslim Hand International, Sahabzada Syed Lakht-e-Hasnain, said on Monday that like other parts of the world they had spent more than 25 million rupees on rehabilitation for the People in Afghanistan. (PPI)

#### **29 August**

Afghanistan has asked the international community for \$875 million to finance its schools for 16 months. "We simply need classrooms, books and chairs," said Education Minister Yunus Qanooni.

India has decided to train a team of 15 media people from Afghanistan, to equip them with the right journalistic skills, according to India media. (SANA)

The China National Electric Equipment Corporation (CNEEC), which will shoulder up the reconstruction of the irrigation project in Parwan Province, has opened its office in Kabul. (SANA)

The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) has relocated its Female Teachers Training Center (FTTC) from Peshawar to Jalalabad in Afghanistan. (SANA)

#### 30<sup>th</sup> August

Northern Afghanistan's largest city, Mazar-e-Sharif, will be reconnected to neighboring Uzbekistan's electricity network today (Friday) launching a new era in the city's post-Taliban development. (NNI)

#### 31<sup>st</sup> August

The first ever business delegation from Pakistan returned with a wide array of commitments and hope from Afghanistan. (APP)

## Political Development

#### 1<sup>st</sup> August

The Afghan government has expressed serious concerns over allegations of an American cover-up after the wedding raid that killed more than 50 civilians. (SANA)

Thousands of demonstrators in Afghanistan's Logar province vowed to press ahead with protests until the province's sacked governor, Fazlullah Mujaddedi, was reinstated to his post, the BBC reported. (SANA)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Protest rallies have been staged in Khost against the central government decision and demanding the appointment of persons according to the wishes of people in the province.

It is said that the protesters were supporters of commander Badsha Khan Zadran and they warned they would continue their demos till their demands are met, according to the BBC. (SANA)

More than 100 Pakistani prisoners have been shifted from a jail in northern Afghanistan to Kabul for their possible release in the near future. (Rahimullah Yusufzai)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> August

A total of 10,482 Afghans left Shiraz for their homeland during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21) in accordance with a voluntary repatriation program. (NNI)

#### 4<sup>th</sup> August

President Hamid Karzai dismissed allegations that the US tried to cover up an air strike that killed civilians, and said a continued American presence was crucial to Afghanistan's future. (AP)

#### 5<sup>th</sup> August

A group of Afghan women engineers who were banned from working under the former Taliban regime are set to rekindle their careers after graduating from a university refresher course, the charity Oxfam said Sunday (AFP)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> August

Afghan authorities have warned local warlord Badshah Khan Zadran, who opposes President Hamid Karzai's rule, to halt anti-government protests in his power base in the eastern city of Khost, an Afghan news agency said. (Reuters)

#### 7<sup>th</sup> August

As a former commissioner for refugees in Pakistan, Rustum Shah Mohmand, Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, says his government's first priority is to help facilitate the safe return of hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees to their homeland. (NNI)

#### 8<sup>th</sup> August

Afghanistan on Wednesday asked Pakistan to allow Afghan officials to visit jails where about 7000 Afghan prisoners were detained.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami will pay a one-day official visit to Kabul on August 13, invited by his Afghan counterpart, Hamid Karzai. (APP)

The Afghan government has issued a serious warning to Badshah Khan – an Afghan warlord whose men have set up roadblocks and defied the central government authority in southern Afghanistan. (PPI)

#### 9<sup>th</sup> August

Indian Foreign Minister, Yaswant Sinha will visit Afghanistan on Saturday and Sunday, a foreign ministry official said. (AFP).

A privately run Hindukush News Agency (HNA) has been set up in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul in what is believed to be the first ever news service free from official control, working from inside the country, according to the BBC. (SANA)

#### **11<sup>th</sup> August**

Indian Foreign Minister, Yashwant Sinah, arrived in Kabul for talks with Afghan officials on security related issues and the reconstruction of the war-shattered nation. (Reuters)

#### **12<sup>th</sup> August**

Iran has quietly detained and expelled to Saudi Arabia 16 al-Qaeda fighters who sought refuge in the country after fleeing neighboring Afghanistan, the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Faisal, told The Washington Post in an interview.

#### **13<sup>th</sup> August**

The Indian Foreign Minister, Yaswant Sinha, who is visiting Afghanistan, has held talks with powerful northern Afghan warlord and deputy defense minister, Dostum, and the governor of Herat province, Ismail Khan. (NNI)

#### **14<sup>th</sup> August**

The government Virtue and Vice people are back in business in Afghanistan, but this time the man in charge promises a kinder, gentler brand of Islamic conformity. Mohammad Wazir Razi, Kabuli is appointed as director of the department. (Agencies)

Looking to forge closer ties with a friendlier regime across the border, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami arrived on Tuesday for his visit since the fall of the Taliban with promises of aid for the new government. (AP)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> August**

A spokesman for the Afghan consulate announces that an unspecified number of pro-Taliban Pakistani prisoners would be released on Sunday.

#### **17<sup>th</sup> August**

Afghan President, Hamid Karzai has said that Afghanistan needs a national army. In his first national address on radio in a move aimed to bring him in closer touch with his people, he said formation of the national army is the need of the hour. (PPI)

The new Afghan government is having difficulty in getting on its feet because the international community has been slow to make good on its promises of aid, US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said on Thursday. (AFP)

#### **18<sup>th</sup> August**

A major Russian military delegation is currently in Kabul to assess the equipment needs of the Afghan army, Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim said Saturday. (AFP)

Defense Minister and Afghan Vice-president Mohammad Qasim Fahim held a press conference on Saturday to quash rumors of a split with President Hamid Karzai. (AFP)

#### **19<sup>th</sup> August**

The transitional Afghan government has decided to reinstate all the Afghan women who were removed by the Taliban, Voice of America reported. (SANA).

Afghanistan will celebrate its 83<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day on August 19 (Monday). (SANA)

President General Pervez Musharraf has greeted the President of the Transitional Islamic Government of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, on the occasion of their 83<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Independence day. (NNI)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> August**

In a move to facilitate aid for war-ravaged Afghanistan, South Korea will open an embassy in Kabul, on September 2, the Korean Times has reported. (SANA)

An international investigation into the assassination of the Afghan Vice president, Haji Qadir, has failed to identify his killers. (PPI)

Afghanistan's former king M. Zahir Shah attended his country's Independence Day celebrations for the first time in 30 years on Monday, arriving at Kabul's Olympic Stadium with President Hamid Karzai in a show of national unity. (AFP)

Some 1,000 prisoners may have died of asphyxiation in container trucks while being transferred by the US-backed northern Alliance in Afghanistan, Newsweek magazine reported Sunday. (APP)

#### **21<sup>st</sup> August**

UN drug officials say the new Afghan government has largely failed in its efforts to eradicate the opium poppy crops. (NNI)

### 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Afghanistan has opened its embassy in the capital of Kyrgyzstan, the Kyrgyz foreign ministry's press service has said. (SANA)

Kabul has formally requested Pakistan release all 'innocent' Afghans held in the country's prisons, the Afghan ambassador to Pakistan told AFP. (AFP).

The Afghan embassy in Saudi Arabia, which closed in September last year after Riyadh severed ties with the former Taliban regime, has reopened, the Afghan ambassador designate said on Wednesday. (PPI)

### 23<sup>rd</sup> August

The Kabul police academy officially reopened its doors on Thursday after six years, thanks to German assistance which allowed the rebuilding of two buildings able to accommodate 1,600 pupils. (AFP)

### 24<sup>th</sup> August

The Afghan government has denounced the reported killings of hundreds of Taliban prisoners in northern Afghanistan late last year during the US campaign to drive the Taliban from power, but stopped short of pledging to organize an investigation, the Washington Post reported. (NNI)

### 26<sup>th</sup> August

A high level delegation of Afghanistan headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, is scheduled to arrive Islamabad on Monday for bilateral talks and economic cooperation between the two countries. (NNI)

### 27<sup>th</sup> August

In an effort to further strengthen bilateral ties with Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha on Monday said India proposed to set up its consulates in various cities of the nation. (NNI)

The Russian Defense Minister, Sergei Ivanov, has expressed his country's readiness to train units of Afghan national army, saying these courses might be arranged at the Russian military base in Tajikistan, the BBC reported. (SANA)

### 28<sup>th</sup> August

President General Pervez Musharraf assured the visiting Afghan Ministers (Dr. Abdullah and Mr. Ashraf Ghani) Islamabad's full support to the government of President Hamid Karzai and said Pakistan would extend all possible help to facilitate objectives of stability and prosperity in Afghanistan. (APP)

### 29<sup>th</sup> August

After visiting Kunduz and Takhar provinces of northern Afghanistan, the head of the Afghan Transitional Government, Hamid Karzai, visited Badakhshan province where he was welcomed by former president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, the BBC reported (SANA)

One of Afghanistan's most powerful regional leaders, Herat governor Ismail Khan, has given his full backing to President Hamid Karzai's quest to extend his government's influence beyond Kabul. (AFP)

Authorities in Kabul have banned Indian films from state television and women singing from the radio. (Reuters)

### 30<sup>th</sup> August

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has said he is confident that returning Afghans are satisfied with their new government. (PPI)

### 31<sup>st</sup> August

South Korea will open an embassy in Kabul next week, the Foreign Ministry said. S. Korea plans to send two officials to open its embassy in Kabul on Monday and its ambassador. Park Jong-sun, will take office there around the end of September, the Ministry said. (AP)

## **Security Matters**

### 1<sup>st</sup> August

The Afghan authorities are questioning a man in connection with what they say was a foiled plot to blow up government ministers. The would-be assassin was intercepted in Kabul when his car,

loaded with explosives, was involved in a road accident, officials say, reports BBC. (NNI)

The war in Afghanistan is the first time robots are being used by the US military as tools for



combat. Proponents believe sending them into caves, buildings or other dark areas ahead of troops will help prevent US casualties, a Washington Post report said. (NNI)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> August

The US expressed concern about continuing security breaches in Afghanistan, CNN reports. (SANA)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> August

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says he backs the idea of expanding the peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, but not with US troops. (NNI)

Afghan officials have said a US helicopter attack on a village 75 miles south of Kabul killed one civilian and wounded two others. (NNI)

#### 4<sup>th</sup> August

A grenade exploded in the grounds of a United Nations compound (FAO) in the southern city of Kandahar in the first attack against UN staff since the world body resumed its operations in the country late last year. (AFP)

#### 5<sup>th</sup> August

Italian members of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul formally completed the training of over 50 Afghans in bodyguard techniques on Sunday in a bid to boost protection of cabinet ministers still at risk. (Reuters).

#### 6<sup>th</sup> August

Albania sent 30 handpicked soldiers to Afghanistan to help keep the peace, and said it hoped their performance would boost the country's hopes of one day joining the NATO military alliance. (Reuters)

US forces fired mortar rounds at an enemy position after two rockets landed close to a Special Forces base in southern Afghanistan. (AFP)

#### 7<sup>th</sup> August

US Special Forces killed two attackers in a brief battle in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, US military officials said. (Reuters)

#### 8<sup>th</sup> August

Attackers struck after dawn Wednesday against an Afghan army base in south Kabul, and up to 15 people were killed, including 11 guerillas,

authorities reported. The base commander claimed the attackers were Arabs and Pakistanis, but that was not otherwise confirmed.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> August

Australian Special Forces in Afghanistan have seized heavy weapons during an operation in the east of the country, a Defense Force spokesman said on Thursday. (AFP)

#### 10<sup>th</sup> August

As many as 22 people were killed and several others wounded when a powerful explosion ripped through the Afghanistan Construction and Logistic Unit (ACLU) in Jalalabad on Friday.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> August

US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld has said there is a large cache of arms still present in Afghanistan, a lot of which has been pouring in from various countries. (Agencies)

#### 12<sup>th</sup> August

The preliminary investigations indicate that an explosion in the eastern city of Jalalabad, which killed at least 26 people, was the result of an accident. "There might have been some mistakes in maintaining the explosives that were kept in reserve", Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah said. (PPI)

Thirty specially trained commandos from the Albanian armed forces have undertaken peacekeeping operations in the Kabul airport in Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### 13<sup>th</sup> August

A US soldier has died of wounds suffered last month in an ambush in southeastern Afghanistan, raising to 46 the number of US service members campaign, the military said on Monday. (AFP)

Two people were wounded in a bomb explosion at a shop selling audio and videocassettes in Afghanistan's southeastern city of Khost, an Afghan news agency said. (Reuters)

Authorities in eastern Afghanistan have arrested a Yemeni and found three anti-tank missiles during their search for Taliban and al-Qaeda members and arms, a senior police officer said. (AP)

#### **14<sup>th</sup> August**

Unidentified attackers killed five people, including four children, in a grenade attack on a house near the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported. (AFP)

Unidentified armed men carried out a rocket attack on the base of American forces in southeastern Afghan city of Khost. (PPI)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> August**

Armed men broke into the compound of the United Nations refugee agency in the town of Ghazni and looted communications equipment and cash, a UNHCR spokeswoman said. (PPI)

The Afghan defense minister, Mohammad Fahim, has outlined details of a disarmament program to bring weapons in the country under the control of the central government. (SANA)

#### **17<sup>th</sup> August**

United States Special Force were tipped-off that three rockets with remote control timing devices were aimed at one of their safe houses in central Afghanistan, a US military spokesman said. (AFP)

A small bomb exploded outside the Ministry of Communications in the center of the Afghan capital Kabul, smashing a few windows but causing no injuries, officials said on Friday. (Agencies)

#### **18<sup>th</sup> August**

Two British soldiers serving with the ISAF in Afghanistan were killed Saturday in a shooting incident at Kabul airport, the commander of the British contingent said. (APP)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> August**

Seven American troops have been killed in a bomb blast in southeastern province of Paktia in Afghanistan. (PPI)

#### **21<sup>st</sup> August**

In Afghanistan, the US forces have launched a large-scale operation to track down al-Qaeda and Taliban suspects in the province of Paktia. (PPI)

One man was killed and one wounded when the bomb they were trying to fix to a vehicle exploded in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar, witnesses and police said on Tuesday. (Reuters)

Rival Afghan groups continued internal clashes on the Independence Day of Afghanistan. Three were killed in such clashes at the Gosfandi area near Mazar-e-Sharif. (NNI)

Afghan security officials said they found a bomb in a crowded Bazaar Tuesday, not far from the US Embassy in Kabul, in the latest security threat to the war-battered city. (Agencies)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> August**

Afghan allied forces shot one opposition fighter dead and captured two others after a US-led coalition patrol came under fire in southern Afghanistan, a military spokesman said. (AFP)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> August**

Japan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Kinchiro Omano, has emphasized the need for international help in ensuring law and order in Afghanistan. (PPI)

#### **24<sup>th</sup> August**

The European Union's special envoy for Afghanistan, Francesco Vendrell, has expressed concern over the security situation in Northern Afghanistan during his talk with local officials in Mazar-e-Sharif the BBC reported. (SANA)

#### **25<sup>th</sup> August**

Afghanistan's regional governors gathered in Kabul on Saturday as the government attempted to garner ranging support from a conference on issues ranging from disarmament to the war against drugs. (AFP)

#### **26<sup>th</sup> August**

A strong explosion went off on Sunday in front of the UN's guesthouse in the Afghan capital, injuring at least one Afghan, witness said

Five people were killed and another five were injured in fighting between rival factions near the troubled northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif, the UN said on Saturday. (AFP)

State Department security officers will take over inner-ring protection of Afghan President Hamid Karzai from the US military some time next month, an official said Sunday. (AFP)

#### **27<sup>th</sup> August**

The US military has arrested 11 lower-level Taliban and al-Qaeda suspects, including two with Western passports, during a weeklong sweep in eastern Afghanistan. (AFP)

### **28<sup>th</sup> August**

One US Special Forces soldier was wounded when a mine went off during a demining exercise, a military spokesman said on Tuesday. (Reuters)

### **29<sup>th</sup> August**

The US-led coalition forces conducting military operations have arrested 10 suspected members of al-Qaeda. They have also seized a large quantity of weapons during the operations. (PPI)

Six rockets were fired at Jalalabad airport Wednesday but no casualties were reported, the provincial governor of Nangarhar said. (AFP)

### **30<sup>th</sup> August**

Afghan military forces arrested 95 people believed linked to al-Qaeda or the Taliban and confiscated more than 400 weapons in an operation in southern Afghanistan, a military commander said. (AP)

A Swiss deminer was seriously injured in a mine explosion in central Afghanistan's Bamyan province, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported Thursday. (AFP)

### **31<sup>st</sup> August**

In view of ongoing difficulties in rebuilding Afghanistan, the United States would be willing to enlarge and expand ISAF outside of Kabul, The New York Times said Friday quoting senior US officials. (AFP)

## **Other News**

### **8<sup>th</sup> August**

All landlords in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, who have leased out their commercial or residential properties to Afghan refugees, have been asked to immediately submit details of their tenants to the concerned police stations.

### **11<sup>th</sup> August**

The Embassy of Afghanistan in Pakistan has invited suggestion for the reconstruction of Kabul city. (APP)

An Afghan refugee, who had burnt himself outside the UNHCR office in Islamabad against rejection of his application for assistance earlier

this week, died on Saturday in an Islamabad hospital of his injuries. (F. P Report)

### **17<sup>th</sup> August**

Afghanistan will send 25 athletes to compete in the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Games set for September 29-October 14 in Pusan, South Korea. (SANA)

Afghanistan's new government said on Friday it had cancelled an annual military parade to mark the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of independence from Britain next week, but denied this was because of security worries. (Reuters)

### **26<sup>th</sup> August**

UN High Commissioner for Afghan refugees, Ruud Lubbers, has arrived in Kabul for a five-day tour of Afghanistan where about 1.5 million refugees have returned this year, a spokesman said. (AFP)

### **28<sup>th</sup> August**

At least nine people were killed and 29 were missing after heavy rains in southeastern Afghanistan triggered a mudslide in this drought-affected nation. (AP)

### **31<sup>st</sup> August**

A tribal Jirga convened by local religious leader Sher Gul is in progress at Landi Kotal, Khyber agency to persuade the agitating tribesmen to open the Torkhum road, blocked by them for the last three days against installation of electricity meters. (APP)



# ACBAR



## News Summary For September-2002

### Aid and Economic Development

#### 1<sup>st</sup> September

The Afghan commerce Minister, M. Kazemi, has announced plans to construct two industrial towns inside Kabul city, with the help of private sector. (PPI)

#### 4<sup>th</sup> September

France has reaffirmed its support for Afghanistan's reconstruction. (PPI)

#### 5<sup>th</sup> September

France and Afghanistan have signed an agreement to promote socio-economic and cultural ties between the two countries. (PPI)

Afghanistan's Afghan Wireless Communications Company (AWCC), a joint venture between Telephone Systems International and the Ministry of the Afghan government, announced the launch of a mobile GSM voice service in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif. (SANA)

The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) is to rebuild seven schools and a clinic and dig 90 wells for water to normalize life in Nahrin in northern Afghanistan that was hit by a devastating earthquake earlier this year, the SCA said. (SANA)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> September

Iran-Afghanistan Joint Investment Company is to be established soon in collaboration with Iranian and Afghan private sectors and traders. (NNI)

A project to construct a road has begun in the Afghan capital Kabul with the help of funds provided by Japan. Under this project, a 14 kilometer road would be rebuilt in the southwestern part of Kabul that was badly damaged due to prolonged war. (PPI)

#### 7<sup>th</sup> September

The Qatar Joint Relief Committee presented a cheque for 150,000 US dollars as a contribution to the Malaria Programme in Afghanistan. (SANA)

#### 8<sup>th</sup> September

The US has urged other countries to fulfill their aid pledges to Afghanistan to help stabilize the nation. (SANA)

#### 9<sup>th</sup> September

The European Union has increased its promised aid to Afghanistan to 254.8 million US dollars this year. (AFP)

#### 10<sup>th</sup> September

The American Senate is scheduled to vote at the end of September on a \$2 billion reconstruction package for Afghanistan, with specific allocations for the Women's Ministry and a Human Rights Commission, as well as a call for additional activities, because violence against women and other repressions are still so extreme in Afghanistan. (SANA)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> September

Iran has so far dispatched 20 food and medicine relief aid consignments weighing 1,500 tons to Afghanistan. (PPI)

The European Union has announced 60 million Euros more for Afghanistan. (SANA)

#### **14<sup>th</sup> September**

Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, has told Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, that Japan will extend \$50 million to Afghanistan to help the war-torn nation finance a road repair project, a Japanese official said. (PPI)

The US President, George W. Bush has announced that the US, along with Saudi Arabia and Japan, will be providing \$180 million for road improvement projects in Afghanistan. (F.P Report)

#### **15<sup>th</sup> September**

Australia will provide an extra \$1.5 million to help rid Afghanistan of landmines. This takes to \$3 million the amount committed to land mine action in Afghanistan since last September. (NNI)

#### **19<sup>th</sup> September**

The Association for Foreign Workers Human Rights in Pusan, a Korean NGO, has provided relief items worth US \$41,274 to Afghan refugee children in Barkelle camp, Bajaur Agency, NWFP. (PPI)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> September**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Red Crescent Society will shortly send foodstuffs and medical aid to the Afghan people within the framework of a relief campaign carried out by the society. (SANA)

#### **25<sup>th</sup> September**

Japan will assist Afghanistan in the reconstruction of television studios to help expand the TV network in the country, following and agreement with the Afghan Information and Culture Ministry, the BBC reported. (SANA)

#### **27<sup>th</sup> September**

As a part of India's efforts to be a big player in the emerging market in Afghanistan, the Indian industry community has decided to donate 25 computers and to establish a computer center in Kabul. (NNI)

The construction of a religious school, which had started during Taliban regime but later stopped, will be restarted with the aid of Al-Akhtar Welfare Trust International of Pakistan.

#### **28 September**

Representatives from some 60 countries and international organizations gathered at the World Bank headquarters in Washington to review reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan. (NNI)

Donor nations pledged tens of millions of dollars Thursday to help bridge a shortfall in Afghanistan's budget and speed up reconstruction of the war-scarred country. Afghan Finance Minister, Ashraf Ghani, said. (APP)

### **Political Development**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> September**

The PSE group (European Socialists) in the European Parliament is to table a resolution next week asking the Afghan authorities to bring to justice all those responsible for killing journalists in Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> September**

The UN will send a delegation to northern Afghanistan this week to meet with Abdul Rashid Dostum after he offered to cooperate with an investigation into the controversial deaths of scores of Taliban prisoners last year. (APP)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> September**

South Korea has appointed Park Jong-soon, who worked as liaison officer between the Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry, ambassador to Afghanistan. (SANA)

Russia's Defense Minister, Sergei Ivanov, is to pay an official visit to Kabul. (APP)

A group of Afghan women visiting Switzerland has been drawing attention to the ongoing battle for equal rights in their country. The ten women say their situation has improved enormously since the fall of the Taliban regime, but much remains to be done. (NNI)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> September**

110 Pakistanis imprisoned in Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban regime, would be brought back to Pakistan today. (APP)

### 13<sup>th</sup> February

The new Jallozai refugee camp was formally closed with the shifting of 1500 refugees to the newly established Barkili, Shalman and Asgharo camps in tribal agencies near the Pak-Afghan border. According to the UNHCR.

### 14<sup>th</sup> February

A group of international aid organizations has worked out a scheme worth Rs. 25,623 million to work with the Balochistan government to upgrade the health sector for the poor and Afghan refugees.

Kabul municipal authorities want to rebuild the war ravaged Afghan capital along zoning regulations which were drawn up in 1978, the year before the Soviet Union invaded and the country descended into more than 23 years of conflict.

### 15<sup>th</sup> February

Eight tones of aid have been shifted to northeastern Afghanistan through a new temporary border post recently opened on the Tajik border by relief workers. According to the Asian Nation's Border Service.

Fifty-nine women graduated from health care course offered by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) after several years' education limitation for women by the Taliban.

Agricultural scientists and relief organizations are working together to restore farming in Afghanistan by replenishing seed stocks and improving irrigation system. According to the International Center for Research in the Dry Area.

WHO is set to begin a survey of HIV/AIDS and Sexually transmitted diseases in Afghanistan.

### 26<sup>th</sup> February

With the view to examine the reconstruction and rehabilitation work in Afghanistan, a Study Group comprising World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and UNDP has been constituted. According to the Director General, Afghan Reconstruction Cell of Export Promotion Bureau.

### 27<sup>th</sup> February

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of Afghanistan's interim Administration, Mirwais Sadeq announced the formation of a joint

technical-vocational cooperation committee between Iran and Afghanistan.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced two grants totaling US \$ 64,000 for the rehabilitation of Afghan Ministry of Women Affairs. According to the USAID representative.

## **Political Development**

### 1<sup>st</sup> February

Afghan interim leader Hamed Karzai paid a brief visit to former president Sebghatullah Mujaddadi who returned to Kabul after 10 years exile in Denmark and Pakistan.

Afghanistan's interim leader Hamed Karzai expressed his anger with Padshah Khan, governor of eastern province Paktia who fought with another armed group in capital city of Gardez.

Afghanistan's interim administration urged Britain for committing more troops into Afghanistan for insuring security in the cities and villages of the war shattered land.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Afghan warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum denied reports that he was seeking Indian military hard ware to help strengthen his war ravaged country defenses.

Afghan Defense Minister General Qasim Fahim supports interim leader Hamed Karzai's appeal for more international troops to be sent to Afghanistan.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> February

New political laws being drawn up in Afghanistan will demand all parties abide by democratic principles, and ban communists and Taliban leaders and followers from political activities. According to the interim Justice Minister.

### 6<sup>th</sup> February

Fatana Ishaq Gillani president of Afghan Women Council has said that they have opened their

#### **5<sup>th</sup> September**

55 more Pakistanis arrived at the PAF Peshawar Base in a special C-130 plane after their release from Afghanistan.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> September**

Russian Defense Minister, Sergei Ivanov, will arrive in Afghanistan today on a one-day official visit. It will be the first visit by a Russian Defense Minister to Kabul. (NNI)

#### **7<sup>th</sup> September**

Pakistan has condemned the attempt on the life of President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. (F.P Repot)

Afghanistan's former king, M. Zahir Shah, fiercely condemned an attempt to assassinate President Hamid Karzai, and a separate car bomb attack which left up to 30 dead. (AFP)

Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, has said the man who tried to assassinate him on Thursday came from a Taleban stronghold in the south of the country. The uniformed man was shot dead by Mr. Karzai's American bodyguards after he had fired four shots into Mr. Karzai's car. (PPI)

Russian Defense Minister, Sergei Ivanove, said on Friday as he arrived in the Afghan capital Kabul that Moscow was willing to help equip and train a new national army in Afghanistan. (AFP)

#### **8<sup>th</sup> September**

Iranian President M. Khatami has sent a message to his Afghan counterpart, Hamid Karzai, to condemn the assassination attempt on the Afghan leader. (IRNA)

#### **9<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, was due to travel on Sunday to the United States, where he will meet President George W. Bush and participate in ceremonies commemorating last year's September 11 terror attacks. (APP)

Kandahar Governor, Gul Agha Sherzai, has said he has no doubt that the gunman who tried to assassinate Afghan President Hamid Karzai had links to the Taliban. (PPI)

The first death anniversary of the late leader and commander Ahmad Shah Massud will be observed in Afghanistan and its diplomatic missions abroad today.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> September**

The Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, has said that Afghanistan wants to have good relations with all its neighbors. "The wishes and aspiration of the Afghan nation is to rebuild peace and tranquility and eliminate terrorism," he said while talking to the BBC. (PPI)

#### **11<sup>th</sup> September**

Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan, Rustam Shah Mohmand, has expressed the hope that all Pakistani prisoners who were detained in different jails of Afghanistan would be released soon. (PPI)

Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, has declared the anniversary of the slaying of veteran military commander Ahmad Shah Massud a national day of commemoration. (PPI)

#### **12<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, on Wednesday described the September 11 terror attacks in the United States as an act of almost unparalleled brutality, and expressed condolences to the victims. (AFP)

#### **14<sup>th</sup> September**

Iran has recently handed over 200 Al-Qaeda activists arrested during their escape from US forces to their loyal Governor of Herat, Toran Ismail Khan. (F.P Report)

Afghan president, Hamid Karzai has told the UN that lasting peace and security in his country depends on other countries fulfilling their aid pledges. (PPI)

#### **15<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan President, Hamid Karzai on Friday welcomed the apparent US change of heart to favor expanding Afghanistan's peace-keeping force, and said he wished the move had come many months before. (AP)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> September**

Senior officials from more than 20 countries on Friday met at the UN headquarters in New York to reaffirm their commitment to supporting the ongoing progress in Afghanistan. (NNI)

A three member Pakistani team headed by Petroleum Minister, Usman Aminuddin, is due to leave for Kabul Today (Monday) to attend the second meeting of the managing committee of

the 1500 km \$2 billion Afghan-Pakistan-Turkmenistan gas pipeline. (SANA)

#### **17<sup>th</sup> September**

A gunman who tried to murder Afghan President Hamid Karzai this month was a former Taliban official recently released from jail in an amnesty order by Karzai himself, a report said Monday. (AFP)

#### **19<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan foreign minister, Dr. Abdullah, has stressed the need for continued support from allies in order to keep the Taliban and al-Qaeda forces out of power. (NNI)

One of al-Qaeda's most valuable operatives, Ramzi Binalshb, has been captured alive in Karachi, and 10 other suspects have been caught with him.

#### **20<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan Defense Minister, Qasim Fahim, and Indian Home Minister, L K Adevani, exchanged views on existing bilateral relations between both sides and the reconstruction of Afghanistan, during a meeting in Kabul. (SANA)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Afghan Transitional government has designated Nangyalai Tarzai its first ambassador to Pakistan. (F.P Repot)

About 14 women from various Afghan government ministries will arrive in the United States today (Sunday) for a four-week educational exchange program. (NNI)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> September**

US General Dan McNeill brought two of Afghanistan's most powerful warlords (Kandahar's governor Gul Agha Sherzai and Herat's governor Ismail Khan) together at the weekend in a groundbreaking attempt to mediate between them. (Agencies)

#### **24<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, will begin a state visit Friday to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, officials said Monday. (AP).

#### **27<sup>th</sup> September**

The house-to-house search operations of US forces have flared up anger and unrest amongst the Afghan tribes. (PPI)

#### **28<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, left Kabul on Friday for visits to Saudi Arabia and two other Arab countries aimed at boosting much-needed economic support for his fragile government. (Reuters)

A would-be assassin who failed in his attempt to kill Afghan President Hamid Karzai this month was allegedly offered two Toyota Corolla cars by senior Taliban officials for the job. (NNI)

The Afghan President Hamid Karzai has said that the cultivation of poppy is fully banned in the country, and violators will be given strict punishment, VOA reports.

The first war criminal in Afghanistan. Abdullah Shah, has been convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Abdullah Shah has been convicted for rape, extortion and burning to death 50 people in the war between the Mujahideen factions in the 1990s. (NNI)

#### **29<sup>th</sup> September**

Fourteen women holding key positions in the Afghan government have begun a four-week program in the United States for training in leadership management and computer technology. (USIS)

#### **30<sup>th</sup> September**

About 600 Afghan farmers along with their children have gathered in Helmand province to hold demonstrations against the central government's decision to ban poppy cultivation. (PPI)

### **Security Matters**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> September**

Two explosions were reported Saturday at Kabul airport in the latest of a series of blasts, which have undermined confidence in the security situation in Afghan capital. (AFP)

Acting on intelligence reports, US Special Forces found a truck smuggling a large amount



of weapons through northern Afghanistan. (SANA)

A child has been killed and two others were injured in a bomb explosion in Kabul city. (PPI)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> September**

The Kabul office of UNHCR has welcomed a proposal about the deployment of ISAF in other parts of Afghanistan. (SANA)

Human Rights Watch has welcomed a statement by a senior US Defense Department official that the Bush administration has dropped its opposition to expanding international peacekeeping forces in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

One man was killed and three people injured-including a British soldier-when a mine exploded in southern Kabul. (AFP)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Four Afghans have been killed while 15 others were injured in two landmine explosions in south Kabul. (PPI)

In Afghanistan, the coalition and Afghan forces have arrested one hundred and seventy people on charges of having links with Taliban and al-Qaeda, the VOA radio reported. (SANA)

Five Afghan civilians were wounded when three rockets were fired close to a coalition base in southeastern Afghanistan. (APP)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> September**

Four rockets were fired in an area where US soldiers were operating in southeastern Afghanistan, but there were no casualties. (AP)

#### **6<sup>th</sup> September**

President Hamid Karzai survived an assassination attempt Thursday when an Afghan security guard fired at his car as it was leaving the governor's mansion here witnesses said. (Agencies)

A massive car bomb ripped through central Kabul on Thursday outside a government Ministry, killing up to 30 people and injuring 50 others, a government spokesman said. (AFP)

#### **7<sup>th</sup> September**

Security measures for the western embassies in Kabul, including Germany and the United States, have been beefed up following agencies' of terrorist attacks. According to a report, all the routes leading towards the German embassy in Kabul have been blocked. (PPI)

Three Afghan civilians, including two women were injured as Pakistani and the Afghan border guards at Torkham exchanged heavy gunfire, which suspended cross border activity for about two hours on Friday.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> September**

The multinational security force has stepped up security in the Afghan capital, Kabul, after the massive car bomb, which killed 30, people, its Turkish commander said. (AFP)

#### **9<sup>th</sup> September**

At least 16 people were killed in fighting between two rival Afghan tribes while 10 others were wounded in a bomb explosion on Sunday at a mini-cinema in the Afghanistan's southeastern city of Khost. (Agencies)

#### **10<sup>th</sup> September**

A spokesman for the governor of Khost told reporters that the violence was still going on and a large number of people had been injured. (PPI)

#### **12<sup>th</sup> September**

Unidentified attackers fired rockets at two cities in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, an Afghan official said. There were no immediate reports of injuries. (Agencies)

US troops in Afghanistan have launched a new offensive in the southeast of the country against suspected remnants of the al-Qaeda and Taliban forces. (SANA)

#### **13<sup>th</sup> September**

Police arrested two men Wednesday who they said were trying to smuggle more than 22,000 rounds of ammunition into the Afghanistan capital, state television reported. (Agencies)

US forces have captured a man believed to be a top financier for Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network or the Taliban during operations in southeastern Afghanistan, the military said. (NNI)

Three rockets were fired on the US bases in Afghanistan on Thursday by unidentified assailants in Gardez, south of Afghanistan, an AIP report said

#### **14<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan government forces rounded up 270 fighters loyal to Badshah Khan Zadran, after taking over control of centers held by the rebellious warlord in the southeastern province of Khost, the VOA radio reported. (SANA)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has called for a further role of ISAF in five provinces of Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### **17<sup>th</sup> September**

Two US Special Forces soldiers have been injured by an explosive device in eastern Kunar Province of Afghanistan, a US military spokesman said. (APP)

Police in the Afghan capital Kabul have seized a truck loaded with explosives, barely a week after a massive car bomb in the city killed 30 people. (PPI)

At least eight people were killed on Monday when fighting erupted between forces loyal to rival warlords in northern Afghanistan, witnesses said. (Reuters)

At least ten rockets were fired at US airbases near Khost, where in a separate incident two American troops sustained injuries as their vehicle hit an explosive device, officials said on Monday. (Reuters)

#### **18<sup>th</sup> September**

Padshah Khan Zadran, the only warlord in the Southern province Khost, was defeated by government forces and escaped to an unknown place, local news reports said. (PPI)

An Afghan security guard was seriously injured when two rockets hit a United Nations office (UNICEF) in the eastern district of Jalalabad city. (AFP)

Five people have been killed and more than eleven others injured in clashes between two rival groups in Sar-i-Pul province of Northern Afghanistan. (PPI)

#### **19<sup>th</sup> September**

US forces in the southern province of Kandahar have arrested six Afghans after shots were fired near one of their patrols, a US military Spokesman said. (AFP)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> September**

Five people, including two women, were killed in clashes between two rival tribes over land in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, an Afghan news agency reported (Reuters)

US special forces have captured seven men suspected of being Taliban fighters and truckloads of weapons in an operation near the border with Pakistan, the US military said on Thursday. (Reuters)

#### **21<sup>st</sup> September**

Denmark is stepping up its participation in the US-led war on terrorism in Afghanistan. Six F-16 warplanes will be sent to Kirghizistan at the end of this month to assist the American Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. (SANA)

Two drug traffickers were killed and a Russian border guard wounded overnight in two clashes on the Tajik-Afghan border, officials said (Agencies)

Gunman wearing burqas fired shots and threw at least one grenade at a vegetable market where Afghan soldiers were shopping on Friday, severely injuring two soldiers and prompting other shoppers to scramble for safety, (Agencies)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai assured the nation that the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul would not leave until the country's security forces are capable of keeping peace. (NNI)

Afghan security forces have rounded up about 400 people in the southwestern province of Helmand after a convoy carrying the provincial intelligence chief came under fire, a senior local official said. (Reuters)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> September**

The Interior Minister of Afghanistan, Taj Muhammad Wardak, has said that the security and governance ministry is taking some strict

actions to avert any untoward incident in future. (PPI)

A 12-year-old boy lost his hand in the Afghan capital when a bomb disguised as a pen exploded while he was clutching it, state media said. (NNI)

Two American soldiers were killed, several others wounded and the rest pulled out of a village in southeastern Khost province after an Afghan tribeswoman opened fire on them, (SANA)

#### 24<sup>th</sup> September

Turkey will not extend its term as commander of the security force in Afghanistan, the Turkish foreign minister said in Istanbul. (NNI)

Germany has emerged as the leading candidate to take command of the international security force in Afghanistan, a move that might also involve NATO, according to US and European officials. (NNI)

#### 26<sup>th</sup> September

A man has been arrested in the Afghan capital after a grenade exploded in a residential area, without claiming any casualties, an international security forces spokesman said. (AFP)

Germany and the Netherlands have proposed they jointly take control of the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan when Turkey's mandate expires. (Agencies)

#### 27<sup>th</sup> September

A land dispute sparked an exchange of automatic weapons-fire between villagers in eastern Afghanistan, killing one person and injuring four others. (Agencies)

#### 28<sup>th</sup> September

Italy is sending a 1,000 man squad of its special forces to Afghanistan to fight against the remnants of al-Qaeda and Taliban. (PPI)

US soldier was slightly wounded when the vehicle he was traveling in hit a mine in troubled eastern Afghanistan, a military spokesman said. (AP)

#### 29<sup>th</sup> September

Fighting has broken out between rival commanders in a mountainous area in northern

Afghanistan, just weeks after the main factions agreed to disarm their men.

Two blasts outside an apartment complex in the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday night showered the area with broken glass but there were no immediate reports of casualties. (Reuters)

#### 30<sup>th</sup> September

Italy and China will impart military training to the army officers of Afghan transitional government. (PPI)

Multinational peacekeepers in Kabul have found a large cache of rockets apparently aimed at one of their main bases in the Afghan capital, a spokesman said. (AFP)

Minister for Finance of Afghanistan, Mr. Ashraf Ghani, has said that foreign assistance is having positive results, about three million Afghan children are starting to go to school and reconstruction work on four main roads would be started from next month. (NNI)

Three have been killed in factional fighting in northern Afghanistan between forces loyal to two local military leaders, a UN spokesman said. (AFP)

At least two people were injured in an explosion at a residential block near the US embassy in Kabul overnight, just hours before the scheduled arrival of a senior Pentagon official. (PPI/AFP)

### Other News

#### 1st September

The Afghan government has admitted it has cleared just a third of the country's illicit poppy fields and faces an uphill struggle to prevent a new crop being sown. (SANA)

The Supreme Court of Afghanistan on Saturday backed a decision by state-run media to ban women from singing on the radio and prevent Indian films from being aired in the capital. (Reuters)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Afghan President Hamid Karzai will launch the latest round of a mass anti-polio campaign, which will see some six million children

immunized against the disease this week, the UN has said. (APP)

The rate of Afghan refugees moving back to their homeland has seen a marked decrease in the past month, a spokeswoman for the UNHCR said Sunday. (AFP)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> September**

The head of the Afghan Transitional Government, Hamid Karzai, has said development of the education sector was his top priority. (PPI)

### **4<sup>th</sup> September**

Preparations are under way to begin the first ever-comprehensive population census in Afghanistan with the first batch of field workers to be dispatched soon. (NNI)

### **5<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghanistan announced Wednesday it will replace its troubled Afghani currency with new banknotes, each worth 1,000 of the current Afghanis (APP)

The UNHCR has expressed concerns over a report about the detention of a large number of Afghan refugees in Iran. (PPI)

### **12<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan refugees living in Iran are being maltreated by Iranian authorities and are being forced to return to the volatile Afghanistan reports BBC. (F.P report)

### **13<sup>th</sup> September**

Some 252,000 Afghans refugees have voluntarily returned home from Iran since April, the official news agency IRNA quoted a senior Interior Ministry official as saying. (SANA)

Many farmers, who had stopped growing their crop obeying a Taliban, are back in the business of cultivating marijuana. (PPI)

### **14<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghan women are dying in childbirth at an extraordinarily high rate, according to a new study by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) released on Thursday. (NNI)

### **15<sup>th</sup> September**

There's a grim secret in northern Afghanistan. Stories of a massive grave in the region continue to circulate. As many as 2,000 Taliban fighters

who had been in the custody of our Afghan allies are said to be there, but nothing can be confirmed, except that there are bodies, according to a report published in Fox News. (NNI)

Hamid Karzai, President of the transitional administration in Afghanistan has approved shifting Afghans from Peshawar to Khost.

### **16<sup>th</sup> September:**

Two American pilots, who accidentally bombed Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan earlier this year, are to face criminal charges. (NNI)

In an interview for BBC HARD talk, Paul Barker, Director of CARE in Afghanistan, has warned that the country could descend into lawlessness and violence unless the West delivers on its promises of aid to the region. (NNI)

### **18<sup>th</sup> September:**

Afghanistan's exile from international tournament football will end later this month with news that the war-torn country will compete in the Asian Games in Busan. (APP)

### **19<sup>th</sup> September:**

The officials of the Afghan Agriculture Ministry have said that it plans to provide loans to farmers and poppy cultivators to prevent poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

### **20<sup>th</sup> September:**

The former king of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah, has left Afghanistan for medical treatment in France. (NNI)

### **24<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghanistan will play host to some 150 Indian companies in the first trade fair to be held in the war-ravaged country in over 10 years. The Made in India Show scheduled to take place from September 26 to 29, will offer Afghan businessmen opportunities to build partnerships with leading Indian firms in a range of categories organized by the confederation of Indian Industry (CII). (NNI)

### **25<sup>th</sup> September**

Afghanistan's Ministry of External Affairs, under an exchange agreement with its counterpart, decided to send 14 journalists to India for a two-month training course at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication. (NNI)

The Governor of Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, Haji Din Mohammad, has said that only new reconstruction projects could prevent farmers from cultivating poppies. (NNI)

Reconstruction of the roads between Kabul, Kandahar and Herat would start before winter, said Under Secretary of the US Treasury, John Taylor, on Tuesday. (NNI)  
27<sup>th</sup> September

**26<sup>th</sup> September**

A total of 1,708,578 Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan under an assistance program launched on March 1 by UNHCR and governments in the region. (NNI)

**30<sup>th</sup> September**

France and Afghanistan have signed an agreement under which Afghan refugees willing to repatriate from France to Afghanistan would start soon. (NNI)



# ACBAR



## News Summary For November-2002

### Aid and Economic Development

#### 1<sup>st</sup> November

The European Commission has adopted a new humanitarian aid package worth 17.645 million to support Afghan populations affected by years of conflict and drought. (NNI)

Switzerland is granting financial support to protect Afghanistan's cultural heritage. The government approved SFr194, 000 (\$130,300) to restore the minaret and the archeological remains of Jam. (Agencies)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Italy and Denmark have offered to stump up additional financial aid to help with rebuilding Afghanistan, Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani said. (NNI)

Japan announced a 16.7 billion-yen (US \$133.6 million) aid package for the reconstruction of Afghanistan making good on part of the funding pledge it promised at a global Afghan donor conference earlier this year. (NNI)

#### 4<sup>th</sup> November

The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has formally launched a fund to aid the formidable rebuilding efforts in war-ravaged Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### 5<sup>th</sup> November

Indian government officials say the Indian Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, has pledged \$100 million of aid to Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> November

Japanese government has allocated an amount of eleven million dollars for the dewatering and arms collection campaign in Afghanistan. (PPI)

#### 15<sup>th</sup> November

Pakistan Professional Association (PPA) International, a London based organization and The Muslim Hands of UK have announced to earmark a sum of UK Pound Sterling 100,000 for medical support and rehabilitation of child victims of land mine in Pakistan and Afghanistan. (APP)

#### 16<sup>th</sup> November

Turkmenistan is planning to install electric power supply lines in the Herat province of Afghanistan, which will allow the country to increase its electric power supplies to the province. (NNI)

Senate of the USA has authorized \$2.3 billion in foreign aid over the next four years for rebuilding Afghanistan, plus another \$1 billion for maintaining peacekeeping forces. (Reuters)

#### 17<sup>th</sup> November

Saudi Arab has pledged \$220 million in economic assistance over a period of four years for the reconstruction of Afghanistan as part of a multilateral effort involving the United States, Japan and the European Union. (SANA)

#### 19<sup>th</sup> November

Pakistan government has donated 600,000-printed course books and \$0.6 million in cash to

construct schools in northern provinces of Afghanistan. (Bureau Report)

The German government has given 36 vehicles and 150 motorcycles to Afghan Interior Ministry for the formation of Afghan national police.

#### **20<sup>th</sup> November**

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is currently distributing around 3700 tones of wheat seeds and around 7000 tones of fertilizers to half a million people in almost all provinces of Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> November**

The Afghan Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah has tanked China for extending aid to Afghanistan and said that China has promised to extend fund worth of \$150 million to Afghanistan. (PPI)

#### **24<sup>th</sup> November**

India will be sending 124 more buses to Afghanistan in addition to the 50 that it has already sent, external affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha said on Thursday. (NNI)

#### **28<sup>th</sup> November**

Rotary International Pakistan during the month of Ramazan distributed dates, green tea and sugar among the Afghan refugees in Mohammad Kheil camp. (NNI)

#### **29<sup>th</sup> November**

The German based Mass Media Resource Center has provided an aid of 9,000 Euro to the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture. (PPI)

#### **30<sup>th</sup> November**

United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Mohammad Al-Shamsi has donated goods worth 10 million dollars to the Afghan authorities as part of its humanitarian and reconstruction efforts. (APP)

Australia will contribute \$ 1 million towards a project to help Afghanistan restore production of wheat and maize. (NNI)

## **Political Development**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> November**

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah has said that his country, rebuilding itself after years

of war, would establish an embassy in Tokyo in the near future. (Agencies)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> November**

The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, has condemned the burning of four girls' schools in a province in central Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> November**

The Afghan Supreme Court has dismissed a female judge for not wearing an Islamic handcart during a meeting with US President George W.Bush and his wife last month, government sources said on Saturday. (Reuters)

A high-ranking official of the US Defense Department, Jose Zekim (PH) has held talks with the Afghan officials, including General Dostum and Commander Atta Mohammad, after his arrival in Mazar-e-Sharif city. (SANA)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> November**

Visiting Afghan foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah on Sunday met Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Bajpayee for talks on the ongoing efforts to rebuild the war-ravage nation, officials said. (AFP)

One of Osama bin Laden's sons has been detained by Iranian security forces, along with several hundred people suspected to links to the al Qaeda network. (NNI)

#### **5<sup>th</sup> November**

Afghanistan's government has sacked as many as 20 high-ranking officials in the provinces in a major government shake-up, which President Hamid Karzai said was aimed at rooting out corruption. (NNI)

Afghanistan's former king Mohammed Zahir Shah Sunday inaugurated a committee charged with the task of drafting a new constitution. (AFP)

#### **6<sup>th</sup> November**

Iranian Education Minister Murtaza Hadi has urged the need for expanding cooperation with Afghanistan in the field of education and training. (PPI)

#### **7<sup>th</sup> November**

The Herat Governor, Ismail Khan, has rejected the allegations of human rights violations, leveled against him by the Human Rights Watch (HRW). (SANA)

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has called for strengthening of Afghanistan's Interim government and putting an end to ethnic and factional differences in order to expedite the reconstruction and development of the war-shattered country. (SANA)

#### **8<sup>th</sup> November**

President Hamid Karzai is due to travel to New York later this week to receive an International Freedom Award from a US aid agency, a spokesman said on Thursday. (Reuters)

Head of Security and Intelligence of the Khandahar province of Afghanistan rejected and order to step down from his position by President Hamid Karzai. (NNI)

#### **11<sup>th</sup> November**

Twenty female prisoners jailed without trial in Afghanistan for minor violations of Islamic moral codes walked free Sunday after a pardon was issued by Afghan President Hamid Karzai. (AFP)

#### **12<sup>th</sup> November**

Seventeen Pakistani men held prisoner in Afghanistan for fighting alongside the former Taliban militia were released Monday after a year.

US President George W. Bush on Sunday welcomed the start of work on a huge internationally funded road linking Afghanistan's major cities of Kabul, Kandahar and Herat, the White House said. (AFP)

#### **13<sup>th</sup> November**

Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah will pay a three-day official visit to China from Sunday. (APP)

#### **14<sup>th</sup> November**

The European Union has urged the Afghan Transitional Authority to take steps for the elections in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

Afghan government has decided to set free all the Pakistan prisoners absolved of involvement in terrorism after being assured by Pakistan that it will release thousands of jailed Afghans languishing in various Pakistani prisons.

Afghanistan's capital is marking the anniversary of its liberation from Taliban rule. (PPI)

#### **15<sup>th</sup> November**

The United Nations condemned the killing of protesting students by local police two days ago in Kabul, said a spokesperson of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). (Xinhua)

#### **18<sup>th</sup> November**

The US special envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad has said that Washington wants that the international forces should be deployed all over Afghanistan till the restoration of peace and starting of the reconstruction work in that country. (NNI)

The Iranian Ambassador to Afghanistan has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed to open its consulate in Kandahar. (NNI)

#### **19<sup>th</sup> November**

China will write off all debts owed it by Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan told his Afghan counterpart Abdullah. (AFP)

#### **21<sup>st</sup> November**

A follow-up conference on peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan is to take place in December, in Bonn. (Agencies)

A commission, which was established for the reformation and improvement of Afghan judicial and justice system, has started work, reports BBC. (SANA)

Afghan Defence Minister, Mohammad Qasim Fahim, arrived in London for talks with his British counterpart. (Agencies)

The Japanese government has extended Japan's logistics support for the U. S.-led anti-terrorism campaign in and around Afghanistan for another six months. (NNI)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> November**

President of Afghanistan interim government Hamid Karzai has constituted two commissions to investigate the riot, which took place between the police and hostel students. (PPI)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> November**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has reiterated that the transitional authority would find out and punish the killers who shot students in the clash between students and Kabul police last week. (SANA)



council office at Kabul to safe guard rights and interests of Afghan women.

British defense secretary Geof Hoon offered British help to build an Afghan army after interim Afghan leader Hamed Karzai said a national military force was needed "as soon as possible".

#### 7<sup>th</sup> February

China officially opened its embassy in Afghanistan.

The US forces in Afghanistan released 27 detainees captured in a disputed US raid on January 23 after determining they were not Taliban forces. According to US military.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> February

The United States paid \$ 200,000 and gave satellite phones to dozens of Afghan warlords to secure their cooperation in the war against the Taliban and Al-Qaida allies. According to the Washington Times.

The top UN envoy to Afghanistan told the Security Council that the country's new government; ordinary Afghans and even warlords are demanding an expansion of the multinational force now in the capital.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> February

Afghan Interim Government leader Hamed Karzai reopened his country's embassy in the United Arab Emirates

#### 13<sup>th</sup> February

The Afghan interim Administration has appointed a local commander Qari Baba as the governor of eastern Ghazni province. According to AIP.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> February

People in the eastern Afghan provincial capital Gardez town cheered and threw flowers to welcome their new governor Taj Mohammed Wardak a veteran administrator named to replace a warlord who besieged the town after local leader refused to accept him as governor.

#### 18<sup>th</sup> February

A 20-member team of Indian intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has recently arrived in Kabul to achieve Indian objectives in Afghanistan.

A dozen persons were killed and 38 injured in clashes between rival armed groups in Mazar-e-Sharif Afghanistan.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> February

Afghanistan's interim government has appointed Zalmi Rassoul, as the new civil aviation and tourism minister after the former minister Abdul Rahman was killed by angry pilgrims.

Two senior Afghan officials detained in Saudi Arabia on suspicion of the involvement in the killing of Afghan civil aviation and tourism Minister. According to the PPI.

Japan reopened its embassy in Afghanistan after it was closed in 1989 when Kabul began a descent into bloody chaos with the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> February

US marines and their Afghan allies have captured Mullah Mohammed Chamkani a former adviser to the fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omer. According to an Afghan tribal commander.

#### 26<sup>th</sup> February

Afghanistan's interim leader Hamed Karzai called on exiled Afghan professional and experts to return home to help rebuild their country.

#### 27<sup>th</sup> February

The US special envoy to Afghanistan Zalmi Khalilzad, said Washington may send military advisors to Afghanistan to act as mediators between the rival warlords there. According to NNI.



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> February

The first group of Canadian infantry assigned to guard suspected Al-Qaida and Taliban fighters arrived at Kandahar airfield.

The main NATO partners are in agreement that Turkey should take over from Britain at the head of the International Security Forces in Afghanistan. According to the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung.

United Nation has criticized the process of disarming the people in northern Afghanistan. A UN spokesman said that the process of disarming the people was facing a number of problems. He added that only a small quantity of arms had been recovered during the last month. (PPI)

#### **25<sup>th</sup> November**

The release of female prisoners from a Kabul jail, as part of the traditional Ramadan pardon, was intended as a symbolic liberation of Afghan women, but the move drew criticism in rural, conservative areas of the country. (SANA)

#### **26<sup>th</sup> November**

The government of Hamid Karzai has dismissed the Governor of Khost province, Hakim Taniwal and Inspector General Police Ghulam Mustafa but both the high-ups refused to obey the President's orders. (NNI)

Following an ambush against two relief worker in Afghanistan, the senior United Nations envoy to the country, Lakhdar Brahimi, on Monday urged the authorities to find and punish those responsible. (NNI)

The governor and commanders of northeastern provinces Baghian, Kunduz, Badakhshan and Takkar have deliberated over the disarmament campaign and formation of national army in a three-day seminar in Afghanistan. (SANA)

The Afghan Higher Education Minister, Mohammad Sharif Fayz, has offered to resign and leave the country if a poll of students at Kabul University goes against him. (SANA)

#### **27<sup>th</sup> November**

Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Dr. Abdullah will be in Russia on an official three-day visit on November 28. (NNI)

Another batch of 87 Pakistani prisoners, released by Afghan government arrived at Pak-Afghan border at Torkham Tuesday night. (Nisar M)

#### **28<sup>th</sup> November**

Austrian Defense Minister, Herber Scheibner is to pay a brief visit to Kabul on Thursday to meet senior Afghan leaders and Austrian troops servicing with a multinational peace-keeping force. (AFP)

#### **29<sup>th</sup> November**

Some 13 Iranian nationals have been released from Herat prison where they had been kept "for a long time" on charges of crossing the border into Afghanistan illegally.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> November**

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah met top Russian officials Friday aimed Kremlin concern that his country still served as a training ground for Chechan guerrillas and that its ousted hardline Taliban regime could return. (AFP)

### **Security Matters**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> November**

The United Nations special envoy to Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi has told the Security Council that "the people of Afghanistan need and ask for international support to provide security" while the national police and army is being trained. (NNI)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> November**

Six rockets landed near American positions in southeastern Afghanistan early on Friday but caused no casualties, the US military said. (Reuters)

Disarmament of rival factions in northern Afghanistan is expected to start on Thursday after a UN brokered agreement this week, a UN spokesperson said. (Agencies)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> November**

With sporadic factional violence persisting in Afghanistan, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has urged the expansion of the international security presence in the country as it emerges from decades of war. (NNI)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> November**

A security curfew closing the streets of the Afghan capital at midnight may be lifted for Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting that starts this week, a multinational peacekeeping spokesman said Sunday. (AFP)

#### **5<sup>th</sup> November**

Unidentified attackers fired on four American military outposts in southern and eastern Afghanistan over the weekend, the US military said on Monday. (APP)

#### 6<sup>th</sup> November

A few charity organizations have warned that they would stop distribution of aid among Afghan people if security were not provided to their workers in Northern Afghanistan. (APP)

#### 7<sup>th</sup> November

Three abandoned Scud missile warheads armed with 800 kg of TNT explosives have been discovered near the Afghan capital, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said. (AFP)

#### 8<sup>th</sup> November

Five rockets found aimed at an airfield in south eastern Afghanistan have been disabled by US special forces engaged in extremists, a US military statement said Thursday. (AFP)

In mid January the Netherlands and Germany will together take over the direction of the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) in Kabul, it was announced by the Dutch parliament. (NNI)

#### 9<sup>th</sup> November

An agreement has been signed by the Karzai's government and warlords in Kabul to constitute 70000 strong forces for Afghanistan. (APP)

US Special Forces shot and killed a gunman who fired on them near the central Afghan town of Deh Rawod, a US military spokesman said on Friday. (APP)

#### 10<sup>th</sup> November

Haji Zahir, the son of the former Afghan Vice President Haji Abdul Qadeer has come under firing near the Pakistani border. One of his bodyguards was killed and another person injured in the firing. (PPI)

Japan will pay millions of dollars to help the Afghan government collect arms from across the war-shattered country, an Afghan official said on Saturday. (Reuters)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> November

At least six people have been killed in a fresh fighting here between the government forces and a rival group. (PPI)

#### 12<sup>th</sup> November

Up to 15 rockets have been fired at coalition forces in southeastern Afghanistan in what the

US military said was an unusually well organized attack. (APP)

#### 13<sup>th</sup> November

Police opened fire on several thousand students protesting in the Afghan capital against the authorities handling of an earlier university riot, in which at least two students were killed, state media reported Tuesday. (Agencies)

#### 14<sup>th</sup> November

At least six persons including a security official were killed and several others injured during a clash between government forces and highwaymen in Hilmand province of Afghanistan. (Agencies)

#### 15<sup>th</sup> November

Afghan Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim believes "there is still a threat from the remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda but the threat is not that major to break up the government in Afghanistan". (SANA)

#### 16<sup>th</sup> November

US war planes bombed and strafed enemy positions after rocket and ground attacks on two bases in southeastern Afghanistan. At least two attackers were suspected killed, the US military said on Friday. There were no US casualties. (Reuters)

#### 17<sup>th</sup> November

NATO is set to take up its first official role in Afghanistan by providing support for the International security assistance force (ISAF) in Kabul, senior alliance sources said yesterday. (SANA)

#### 20<sup>th</sup> November

At least two combatants were killed in the latest outbreak of fighting between two rival factions in troubled northern Afghanistan, a military commander said Tuesday. (APP)

#### 21<sup>st</sup> November

Two Afghan children were killed and another seriously wounded in two separate incidents involving unexploded ammunition, international peacekeepers in the capital Kabul, said on Wednesday. (Reuters)

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Afghan security forces have arrested a number of people and seized a quantity of explosives at a hydroelectric plant near the capital, Kabul. (PPI)

An explosion shook the main currency market in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar Thursday, injuring four people, local security officials said. (AFP)

A rocket hit a residential area of Kabul late Thursday, but there were no deaths or injuries, security officials said. (AFP)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> November**

Two rival warlords in northern Afghanistan have pledged to increase efforts to disarm renegade troops under their command after a series of clashes threatened to undermine peace in the area. (AFP)

Afghan authorities said they had averted an assassination attempt on the defense minister on Friday, arresting two Arabs carrying explosives and apparently planning a suicide bombing. (Reuters)

#### **24<sup>th</sup> November**

An Iraqi Kurd arrested on Friday carrying about 22 pounds of explosives belonged to an international terror group that previously tried to attack the Afghan president, a government statement said. (NNI)

Gunmen near the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif have killed an Afghan woman who was working for a Japanese aid agency, officials said on Saturday. (Reuters)

#### **25<sup>th</sup> November**

Two international aid workers were attacked, beaten and robbed at gunpoint near a lake outside Afghanistan's capital, a UN spokesman said on Sunday. (APP)

US troops in Afghanistan's Paktia Province in the south-east of Afghanistan killed two armed assailants in the course of a struggle on Saturday. (NNI)

#### **26<sup>th</sup> November**

Unknown gunmen fired nearly a dozen rockets at two US military bases in central and eastern Afghanistan, damaging two trucks but causing no casualties, the US military said on Monday. (APP)

#### **27<sup>th</sup> November**

A Danish military camp in the southwest of Afghanistan came under rocket fire Monday, but

nobody was hurt, the chief of Danish forces told the Ritzau news agency Tuesday. (AFP)

The UN Security Council has decided to extend for another year the mandate of the 22-country, 4,800-troops International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, British UN Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock said. (NNI)

A rocket hit a building in the center of Kabul close to several key Afghan government buildings late Tuesday but there were no immediate reports of casualties, officials said. (AFP)

#### **28<sup>th</sup> November**

Gunmen fired a rocket that exploded inside a US base in eastern Afghanistan, but caused no damage or casualties. (Agencies)

#### **29<sup>th</sup> November**

Two small explosions shook the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad overnight but no casualties were reported. (AFP)

#### **30<sup>th</sup> November**

Five people were injured in an explosion at a mosque in northern Afghanistan, state radio said Friday, blaming the attack on "the enemies of peace and stability in Afghanistan". (AFP)

Over 6,000 small arms, 30 tanks and 20 vehicles have been collected in the northeast Afghan province of Kunduz since the weapons collection operation began on November 10, a UN spokesman said in Kabul on Thursday. (NNI)

### **Other News**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> November**

At least 61 children have been confirmed dead in a suspected outbreak of whooping cough in a remote northwestern corner of Afghanistan, the World Health Organization said Thursday. (AFP)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> November**

Edhi Social Mission has been opened in Kabul to continue welfare and rehabilitation work there.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> November**

Khost University has been formally inaugurated in Khost city of Eastern Afghanistan. The University has been formally working in

Peshawar. It has been shifted to Khost on the directive of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. (PPI)

#### **10<sup>th</sup> November**

The UN office in Kabul has said that Afghans need more food aid in winter as a large number of refugees have returned to Afghanistan. BBC reports. (APP)

#### **11<sup>th</sup> November**

More women die of pregnancy-related problems in rural areas of Afghanistan than anywhere else in the world, according to a new report released recently by two United States based organizations. (NNI)

#### **12<sup>th</sup> November**

Work got under way on a huge internationally funded road linking Afghanistan's major cities of Kabul, Kandahar and Herat in a project seen as the war-scarred country's best hope of achieving peace and stability. (PPI)

#### **13<sup>th</sup> November**

A tribunal has turned down an appeal from a notorious Afghan commander sentenced to death for killing dozens of people, including three of his wives and five of his children, a government controlled newspaper reports on Tuesday. (Reuters)

Afghanistan's Central Bank has extended by a month its deadline for swapping old banknotes for new ones

#### **16<sup>th</sup> November**

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has bestowed the "Freedom Award" on Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, reports VOA. (SANA)

#### **18<sup>th</sup> November**

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali arrived in Kabul on Sunday as a messenger of peace from the UN Children's Fund and the World Food Programme to draw global attention to Afghanistan.

#### **19<sup>th</sup> November**

An International NGO has opened several training centers for the betterment of Afghan women in Mazar-e-sharif. (PPI)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> November**

The Australian government has sent back 113 Afghan refugees to Afghanistan, reports BBC. (APP)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Three girl schools supported by Swedish Committee for Afghanistan have reopened in Wardak province of Afghanistan. however, the attendance of students at these schools still remain thin as many feel anxious that they may be targeted again. (Sohail Ahmed)

Afghanistan will make their debut in the 9<sup>th</sup> SAF Games being held in Islamabad from March 29 next year as the eight new member of the South Asian Sports Federation, announced the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) on Thursday. (APP)

Iran's Minister of Roads and Transportation Ahmad Khrram has arrived in Kabul to attend the tripartite meeting of Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan to construct a road linked the three countries. (SANA)

#### **28<sup>th</sup> November**

The BBC's John Simpson has won a coveted international television award for his notorious "liberation" of Kabul.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> November**

The European Union agreed to start repatriating thousands of Afghan refugees as peace returns to their battle-scarred homeland, starting with 1,500 a month from April next year. (PPI)



# ACBAR



## News Summary For December-2002

### Aid and Economic Development

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> December

President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan has ordered the delivery of the second phase of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### 4<sup>th</sup> December

The United Nations has announced the launch of a new project, which aims to rehabilitate housing for thousands of families in Afghanistan, according to the UN News Service.

Canada has pledged \$11.3 million to help the government of Afghanistan create a new national army and rebuild the legal system. (NNI)

#### 5<sup>th</sup> December

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it will grant Afghanistan a US\$ 150 million loan to help rebuild after more than two decades of war, including the US-led assaults that ousted the Taliban regime. (AP)

#### 11<sup>th</sup> December

The European Commission (EC) will soon announce over 400 million euros as its provisional allocation for reconstruction support for 2003 and 2004 to Afghanistan, an EC press release has said. (SANA)

New Zealand will provide 0.5m US dollars for the education program of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister of New Zealand Phil Goff has announced. (SANA)

#### 12<sup>th</sup> December

UNHCR is making an emergency distribution of more than 160,000 blankets around Chaman and in other refugee camps to protect thousands of Afghans threatened a press release on Wednesday.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> December

A top relief official called on international donors on Thursday to channel more of their assistance directly to the government of President Hamid Karzai, saying that less money would be needed for UN programs in the coming year. (AP)

#### 17<sup>th</sup> December

Egypt has provided valuable aid to Afghanistan by undertaking to build a hospital to provide medical services to civilian and has provided 100 scholarships to Afghan students. (FP)

#### 19<sup>th</sup> December

The food and agriculture organization of the United Nations will fund initial activities under the Special Program for Food Security to enable grassroots organization to energize Afghan farmers and herdsmen in the making better use of the resources available (NNI)

#### 20<sup>th</sup> December

More than 20 countries meeting at an international donor's conference for Afghanistan in Oslo have pledged at least \$1.7 billion in aid to Afghanistan for 2003. (NNI)

#### 21<sup>st</sup> December

The European Commission allocated a further 10 million euros in humanitarian aid for the Afghan

population, bringing the total to 73 million euros for the current year, diplomatic source said on Friday.

As part of reconstruction of Afghanistan, Kabul to Kandahar highway will be constructed with US\$ 180 million and schedule to begin shortly. (APP)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> December**

Italian government has promised to provide 30 million Euro to Afghanistan for rebuilding of judicial system in the country. (NNI)

#### **24<sup>th</sup> December**

Air India on Monday delivered a second Airbus plane to Afghanistan as part of New Delhi's aid package to rebuild the country. (AFP)

#### **28<sup>th</sup> December**

An agreement was signed in Islamabad between Government of Pakistan and Government of people's of China's for Humanitarian Assistance for Afghan Refugees in Pakistan for provision of grant relief items worth RMB Yuan 2 million (Rs. 15.0 million approx). (APP)

Improved seed varieties donated by the United States and other countries helped contribute to an 82 percent increase in wheat production in Afghanistan this past summer, a top U.S. foreign aid officials said. (NNI)

India, Iran, Japan, Germany, Pakistan and Russia are to join hands to revitalize Afghan urban transportation fleet. (NNI)

#### **30<sup>th</sup> December**

The government of the Republic of Korea will provide US \$ 4 million worth of vehicles and equipment for the use of the government of Pakistan to support the Afghan refugees. (PPI)

## **Political Development**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> December**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai appointed a special commission on Saturday to investigate rising crime in the capital and alleged corruption within the government. (AP)

Russia in every way supports the interim administration of Afghanistan headed by Hamid Karzai, spokesman for the Russian Foreign

Ministry Alexander Yakovenko has said. (SANA)

Engineer Qutbuddin Hilal, deputy leader of Hizbe Islami Afghanistan has held details talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and other high-ups on current situation of that country.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> December**

An International Conference to review the security situation and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan is to be held in the German city of Bonn today. (PPI)

Iran and Pakistan have decided to free a number of Afghan nationals kept in their custodies.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Legal and constitutional experts from Afghanistan and international groups began a one-day meeting near Bonn to discuss ideas for the country's future constitution, including the crucial issues of women's right. (SANA)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> December**

Iranian Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharazi in Bonn held talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Tehran-Kabul relations and restoration of the Hilmand River flow from Afghanistan to Iran. (NNI)

Pakistan will continue to cooperate with the international community in its efforts for the economic development, reconstruction and rehabilitation in Afghanistan, said Foreign Minister Mian Khrshid Mahmood Kasuri

#### **10<sup>th</sup> December**

A high level Afghan delegation, led by the Minister for Refugees and Repatriation, Inayatullah Nazari, arrives in Islamabad on Monday on a five-day visit to Pakistan. (NNI)

#### **11<sup>th</sup> December**

Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed on a plan to send home the remaining 1.8 million Afghan refugees within three years, closing most camps after more than two decades of operation, senior officials of the two countries announced Tuesday.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> December**

Thirteen teachers from Afghanistan have concluded a six-week visit to the United States as part of a State Department project to help

Afghanistan re-establish the ability to educate its children. (SANA)

The US military is expanding its humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, which military officials say is designed to give legitimacy to the Afghan government. (AP)

#### **13<sup>th</sup> December**

The in-trouble Americans in Afghanistan have intensified efforts to locate the hiding Gulbadin Hikmatyar, leader of the Hizb-i-Islami considering him to be behind the recent abduction of US commandoes in the Southern parts of the war torn country. (N M)

#### **15<sup>th</sup> December**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has invited neighboring countries including Pakistan to sign a friendship agreement at a meeting later this month to mark the first anniversary of his US-backed government coming to power. (Agencies)

Hungary will send a 10-person medical unit to Afghanistan, Minister of Defense Ferenc Juhasz disclosed. (PPI)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> December**

President Hamid Karzai is due to open an international conference in Norway this week that could herald a major shift in the focus of aid for his conflict-hit country and pave the way for an increase in donations. (AFP)

#### **17<sup>th</sup> December**

India on Monday opened consulates in Kandahar and Jalalabad taking such offices to four besides its embassy in Kabul. (APP)

#### **18<sup>th</sup> December**

The Afghan President Hamid Karzai has launched cracked down on warlords by banning political leaders from taking part in military activity. (Agencies)

Afghanistan Vice President Hedayat Amin Arsala on Tuesday said public and private sector partnership between Pakistan and Afghanistan can further boost bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries. (APP)

#### **19<sup>th</sup> December**

Afghanistan wants unfettered transit Trade Agreement (ATTA), said Hedayat Amin Arsala, vice president of Afghanistan during his visit to Pakistan.

Afghanistan's Supreme Court has banned cable television operators in the eastern city of Jalalabad for screening movies in violation of Islam. (AIP)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> December**

Afghan president Hamid Karzai has assured the international community that Afghanistan would continue to work for ensuring human rights, restoring of democracy and strengthening of law and order.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> December**

Afghan minister and donor countries ended a two-day conference in Rome, on reforming Afghanistan's justice system by pledging to coordinate efforts now scattered among various agencies and committees. (NNI)

Foreign ministers of six regional nations meet in Kabul to link a significant agreement under the watchful eyes of representatives of the G-8 and OIC countries to guarantee non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> December**

The publisher of private Afghan weekly was taken into custody after publishing cartoon critical of President Hamid Karzai, the detained man's family said. (AFP)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> December**

Afghanistan has expressed its desire to send its Foreign Service officers to get training in Pakistan, Foreign Minister Mehmud Kasuri told the Nation on Sunday.

Afghanistan's neighbors (China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) signed a pact on Sunday pledging never again to interfere in the affairs of the country, to mark the first anniversary of President Karzai coming to power.

#### **27<sup>th</sup> December**

France welcomed the "Declaration of Kabul" signed by Afghanistan and its six neighbors pledging commitment to constructive and supportive bilateral relations. (NNI)

The US has congratulated Afghanistan on its first year of freedom marked by "solid achievement." And welcomed the signing of a declaration of good neighborly relations between Afghanistan and its six neighbors. (NNI)



### **28<sup>th</sup> December**

Pakistan acceded the request of President Hamid Karzai to allow 400 buses pass through Pakistan donated by India to Afghanistan. (APP)

Alliance of religious parties MMA has strongly condemned the statement of head of Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in which he called on Afghan people for Jihad in Afghanistan. (PPI)

Pakistan agreed to cooperate with Afghanistan in re-establishing centers of information and media in the war-ravaged country (APP)

### **29<sup>th</sup> December**

Afghanistan's Supreme Court held an emergency session Saturday to draft a rebuttal to a statement issued by a renegade anti-government leader calling for a fresh jihad in the country. (AFP)

If there is resentment against US troops anywhere in Afghanistan it should be in Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace. But here as elsewhere in Afghanistan many welcome American forces as perhaps the only protection against fighting between the country's many warlords. (AP)

### **30<sup>th</sup> December**

Governor of west Afghanistan's Kandahar province has acted on the central government's decree to leave his control over local military affairs. (PPI)

Afghan Minister for Information S. M. Raheen called on Priminister Mir Zafaulah Khan Jamali and discussed with him maters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation. (APP)

### **31<sup>st</sup> December**

Leaders of member countries of the Central Asian Co-operation Organizations urge the world community to abide by the decision of the Tokyo Conference to give financial aid to Afghanistan. (NNI)

## **Security Matters**

### **1<sup>st</sup> December**

Crime is on the rise in the Afghan capital Kabul, with 10 residents being killed in the last few days mainly in robberies, State-run newspapers has reported. (SANA)

Coalition forces in the south-eastern province of Khost came under rocket fire early on Saturday in the latest attack in a month of intensified activity by suspected al-Qaeda and Taliban allies, a US military statement said. (AFP)

The aid community in Afghanistan has been positive about the United Nations Security Council decision to approve a year-long extention of the international force in Kabul.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> December**

Commander in Chief of US Central Command, General Tommy Franks has said that the US forces will soon be deployed in the whole Afghanistan. (PPI)

US forces dropped seven bombs on western Afghanistan, close to the scene of a fierce clash between rival commanders that left at least 11 people dead and 15 injured, a military spokeswoman said. (AFP)

Six bombs were discovered Sunday in a busy residential neighborhood of Kabul, a government official told AFP. (AFP)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> December**

International troops keeping the peace in Kabul could be deployed in six other Afghan cities, bringing more of the country under the control of the government of President Hamid Karzai. (NNI)

Warring militias in western Afghanistan have agreed on a temporary ceasefire after two days of fighting in which at least 12 people have died, a local commander said late Monday. (AP)

Three people were killed and two injured in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar in a dispute over disarmament, local officials said. (AFP)

### **4<sup>th</sup> December**

President Hamid Karzai has outlined plans for a 70,000 strong national army. (NNI)

A grenade exploded just outside the gate of a UN refugee agency compound in the eastern Afghan city of Gardez on Tuesday, but there were no casualties, a military commander said (AP)

### **9<sup>th</sup> December**

Unknown miscreants fired at least six missiles at the old airport of Khost province of Afghanistan and at the same time three bombs planted at the

main gate of the airport went off, resulting in casualties of many and damage to property worth thousands of dollars. (NNI)

#### **12<sup>th</sup> December**

An Afghan official has said that 16 suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda men have been arrested from the Southern Afghanistan. (PPI)

Security forces in Afghanistan's capital arrested an Iraqi Kurd alleged to have entered the country illegally, a senior intelligence official said Wednesday. (AP)

The Spokesman of Governor Kandahar, Khalid Pashtoon, has endorsed the arrest of a number of Hizb-e-Islami activists in that province. (PPI)

The commercial consular in Pakistan's embassy in Kabul escaped unhurt when three armed men forced their way into his house Tuesday night. However, his guard was injured after being beaten by the intruders. (R Y)

US forces shelled suspected enemy positions with mortars on Wednesday after coming under rocket fire before dawn at a base near the border with Pakistan, the US military said. (AP)

#### **13<sup>th</sup> December**

Two bombs exploded on Thursday in the troubled eastern Afghan city of Khost, injuring at least one person in attacks blamed on al-Qaeda, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported. (AFP)

#### **14<sup>th</sup> December**

The handing over of the leadership of the (ISAF) in Afghanistan to a joint German-Dutch contingent by Turkey scheduled for next week may be delayed indefinitely. (SANA)

ISAF denied the deployment of troops to some South Eastern Provinces of Afghanistan to assist in the disarming on Thursday. (NNI)

At least one unidentified local has been arrested in connection with two bomb explosions that rocked southeastern Afghan town of Khost. (PPI)

#### **15<sup>th</sup> December**

About 200 Afghan soldiers form the fledgling Western trained, national army was sent to join US soldiers in their hunt for Taliban and al Qaeda fugitives, a government spokesman said Saturday. (Agencies)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> December**

Two children were killed and two were injured by a rocket fired by Afghan soldiers being trained by foreign forces, state media reported Sunday. (AFP)

An Indian national was killed when some unidentified people opened fire on him in Gardez, headquarters of South-eastern border Paktya province of Afghanistan.

#### **18<sup>th</sup> December**

A man was killed in a Afghan border town when he picked up an explosive device thinking it was a toy, a local official said on Tuesday, at least four people were injured. (Reuters)

Two soldiers and an Afghan translator were critically wounded when a grenade was hurled at their car in central Kabul on Tuesday, police and witnesses said. (Reuters)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will help international peacekeepers in Afghanistan coordinate their supply lines and logistics, a spokesman for the peacekeeping force said on Tuesday. (Reuters)

#### **19<sup>th</sup> December**

Security was tightened in the Afghan capital Wednesday a day after two soldiers and their Afghan interpreter were wounded in a grenade attack in the city center (APP)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> December**

Two Afghan and two foreigners have been detained over a grenade attack in Kabul that wounded two US soldiers and their translator, interior Minister Taj Mohammad Wardak said.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> December**

An international peacekeeping helicopter has crashed near the Afghan capital Kabul killing six persons on board and eight on the ground, reports BBC on Saturday. (SANA)

A soldier was killed in a clash with enemy forces in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, and two other American soldiers were wounded in separate incidents, the US military said. (AP)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Germany's Parliament approved on Friday a one-year extension to the mandate of troops



serving in the International Security Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. (AFP)

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> December**

Two people were killed and five injured when a hand grenade was thrown into a moving vehicle in the principal southern Afghan city of Kandahar. (APP)

#### **24<sup>th</sup> December**

A rocket hit near the airport of the eastern city of Jalalabad on Monday, a day after local authorities seized scores of rockets believed destined for Taliban and al-Qaeda fugitives. There was no damage or injuries. (AP)

#### **27<sup>th</sup> December**

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an Afghan leader, opposed to the government in Kabul, has warned that a holy war would be stepped up against international troops based in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

#### **29<sup>th</sup> December**

The US renewed Friday a warning to Americans not to go to Afghanistan because of the security risks across the country, including Kabul. (AFP)

#### **30<sup>th</sup> December**

Two Afghan soldiers were killed and four wounded in a powerful blast overnight near the Pakistani border, an Afghan military commander said on Sunday. (Reuters)

140 weapons had been collected in north Afghanistan's Balkh province since the disarming process resumed there last week after its suspension due to religious celebrations a UN spokesman said. (Xinhua)

#### **31<sup>st</sup> December**

An American soldier was wounded in eastern Afghanistan in a gunbattle near the border with Pakistan, the US military said on Monday. (AP)

### **Other News**

#### **1st December**

Afghan youngsters are to take to the football pitch wearing strips donated by British clubs, including Manchester United, Leeds and Newcastle United. The clubs are among 22 UK teams who have given kits to the Afghan Football Association to help it get the game back

on its feet after long years of civil war and repressive rule under the Taliban.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> December**

The Afghan Wireless Communication Company (AWCC) has now established cellular services in Afghanistan's southern city of Kandahar. (NNI)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> December**

World Bank Chief Economist Nicholas Stern praised Afghanistan's Development Vision During a two-day visit to Kabul. He strongly endorsed Afghanistan's development strategy, with its focus on the private sector and community empowerment. (ENN)

#### **5<sup>th</sup> December**

The British government has set a target to reduce opium production in Afghanistan by 70 per cent by 2008 and to eliminate it fully by 2013. (NNI)

#### **9<sup>th</sup> December**

Since the implementation of a UN-sponsored plan for repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran, 364,496 nationals of that country have returned home. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s spokesman in the Islamic Republic, Mohammad Nouri, told IRNA. (NNI)

Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology has said it will accept 10 scholars from Afghanistan at its graduate school in March for study toward their doctoral degree. (SANA)

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) says a US scheme to set up regional military teams to work on civilian aid projects could undermine existing aid efforts and create security risks. (NNI)

#### **10<sup>th</sup> December**

The international Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Afghan government have signed a two-year agreement to begin the restoration of the nation's telecommunications and broadcasting sectors. (SANA)

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has condoled the death of the former king of Afghanistan Muhammad Zahir Shah's son, Prince Mahmood Zahir. (PPI)

#### **12<sup>th</sup> December**

At least 10 Afghan children have died in the past few days in plummeting temperatures at camps

### 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Afghan interim leader Hamed Karzai established a special committee to investigate factional violence threatening the country's stability.

### 4<sup>th</sup> February

Afghan and United nations mediators joined by American officials extracted a conditional cease-fire agreement from two rival tribal warlords in an eastern Afghan town Gardez that was rocked by two days of fighting.

Foreign commanders in Afghanistan believe more than 30000 international troops will be needed to secure the country.

### 18<sup>th</sup> February

The first contingent of Turkish troops arrived in the afghan capital to join the International Security forces (ISAF) tasked with maintaining security in Kabul.

An Afghan family said they were taking a pregnant woman to hospital when British paratroopers fired on their car, killing a young man.

Fighting between ethnic Uzbek and Tajik forces in northern Afghanistan has left up four dead and aggravated tensions between two of the main factions in the interim cabinet.

The interim Afghan leader Hamed Karzai after a meeting with a delegation of 300 tribal chiefs from eastern zone, finally appointed Haji Zaman as Police Chief of Nangarhar province. According to the sources close to Haji Zaman.

### 20<sup>th</sup> February

Around fifty Greek soldiers and engineers arrived in Afghanistan to join the International Force Patrolling Kabul.

### 27<sup>th</sup> February

Governor of Kandahar Gull Agha expressed security concerns that political groups might revive Jihad in some areas of southern Kandahar

Over seven Afghan people were killed when a bloody clash between US marines and unknown armed men took place near Pak-Afghan border inside Afghanistan.

The training of about six hundred Afghan soldiers has begun in a bid to form the national army of Afghanistan. According to BBC.

## **Other News**

### 1<sup>st</sup> February

The NWFP government repatriated 54 Afghans belonging to northern area of Afghanistan, who were arrested two months back for illegally entering to Pakistan. According to the DIR.

### 6<sup>th</sup> February

Hundreds of Afghan women students turned up at Kabul University to pass entrance exam a right denied them during the five years of Taliban law.

### 8<sup>th</sup> February

At least four people died when snow and fierce blizzards trapped hundreds of cars at Afghanistan's Salang Tunnel for up to two days. According to UN spokesman.

### 27<sup>th</sup> February

Afghanistan's interim government is planning public celebrations for next month's traditional New Year holiday, which were banned by the former Taliban regime because of its pre-Islamic origin. According to the state television.

for displaced people near the Pakistan border, the United Nations has said. (NNI)

#### **13<sup>th</sup> December**

The first phase of work on the construction of Kabul-Jalalabad road, being carried out with the financial support of the European Union, is near completion. (PPI)

#### **14<sup>th</sup> December**

Forty-one children are reported to have died of severe cold and non-availability of basic facilities in Afghan camps in Chaman and Spin Boldak. Edhi and other Charity volunteers disclosed. (PPI)

#### **15<sup>th</sup> December**

As many as 120 Thai military technicians would leave for Afghanistan in March 2003. (Agencies)

#### **16<sup>th</sup> December**

Afghanistan is expected to have a bumper poppy crop this year, harvesting as much as 3,400 tones, up from 185 tones in 2001, according to UN drug control chief Antonio Costa. (SANA)

In Afghanistan, the reconstruction work on main highway from Spin Boldak to Kandahar has been stopped which was started last month, reports BBC. (SANA)

#### **17<sup>th</sup> December**

The Uzbek government has disconnected electric supply to Afghanistan's Balkh Province.

#### **18<sup>th</sup> December**

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BBC World Service was celebrated in a session at the Hall of Radio Afghanistan. (NNI)

#### **19<sup>th</sup> December**

Water in Herman River has been restored from the Kajaki dam into Iran. The water supply had been restored under the agreement signed by Iranian delegation during the visit to Kandahar and Helmand. (PPI)

#### **20<sup>th</sup> December**

The UNHCR says it hopes to help 1.5 million return home next year and the UNHCR is seeking \$195 million to carry out these program and to assist millions of refugees who remain in neighboring countries, VOA reports.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> December**

six disabled Afghan war veterans began a 15-nation world tour to highlight the plight of thousands of injured veterans like themselves. (SANA)

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> December**

A health official in Afghanistan Badakhshan province has said that over 500 children are infected with whooping cough. Pneumonia and measles and the lives of hundreds of others are in danger in the province.

#### **27<sup>th</sup> December**

The bodies of seven German peacekeepers killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan arrived home on Wednesday. (PPI)

#### **30<sup>th</sup> December**

About 600,000 people in Afghanistan are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance according to the UNICEF. (Agencies)

#### **31<sup>st</sup> December**

Afghans are in the process of destroying one thousand billion Afghan currency notes as these are being replaced, BBC reported. (APP)

Haji Din Mohammad, governor of Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan, one of the largest poppy cultivating areas in the country, has promised to destroy all poppy fields in his province. (NNI)

Chairman of 9<sup>th</sup> South Asian Federation Games, Lt. General Syed Arif Hassan has said that Afghanistan may participate in 9<sup>th</sup> SAF games going to be held in Pakistan. (SANA)

The Afghan government expects to send about 25,000 people on the upcoming Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. (Agencies)





# ACBAR



## News Summary For May-2002

### Aid and Economic Development

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> May

The European Commission has announced humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, totaling 19.1 million Euros.

An amount of more than 17 million Euros has been approved to ensure continuing assistance for vulnerable groups affected by the civil war, the drought and conflict.

The commission also allocated more than 2 million Euros for victims of the earthquake that struck the Baghlan region on 25 March (NNI).

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Pakistan has agreed to assist Afghanistan in rebuilding its telecom infrastructure, which may cost the war-ravaged country over \$1 billion.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> May

The Kazakhstan government decided to send its experts and take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan said that its experts could help in the laying of oil and gas pipelines and the reconstruction of roads and bridges and cultivation in Afghanistan (NNI).

Cambodia will send mine experts to help Afghanistan clear mines, Som Sothah, secretary-general of the Cambodian Mine Action Center said.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> May

The Afghan Interim Administration Minister of Telecommunications, Abdul Rahim, has said that

renovation of Afghanistan's telecommunications network and installations in the first phase would require over 100 million dollars investment.

It will cost 15 billion dollars to rebuild Afghanistan but the international community has so far stumped up just 90 million of a promised 4.5 billion, according to the country's reconstruction minister (APP).

#### 8<sup>th</sup> May

Iran will contribute to reconstruction of Afghan Power and water installations under a memorandum of understanding signed by Iranian and Afghan officials (NNI).

Aid agencies working in Afghanistan said that lack of funds were forcing them to cut back on urgent work, running the risk of further suffering for the country's inhabitants. "Without new contribution, the World Food Program will have nothing to distribute in June," said U.N food agency spokesman, Christiane Berthiaume.

Afghanistan Interim Administration (AIA) is planning to start an investment programme by offering tax-free incentives to foreign companies to set up investment and start business in the two war-torn.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> May

India has announced to give three Airbus A300-B4 aircraft to Ariana, (media reports)

The World food programme (WFP) has warned that its funds would end in next month if more aid were not provided to it.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> May

The first convoy of 25 mini-buses, gifted by Indian government to Afghanistan Interim Administration after reaching into Peshawar, transported across the border at Pak Afghan Torkham.

Pakistan is donating two lakh tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as part of 100 million dollars donation announced by President of Pakistan (APP)

#### 13<sup>th</sup> May

According to an agreement reached between the Tehran and Kabul governments, Iran will supply electricity for Afghanistan's Farah, Herat and Neemroze provinces, said an Afghan authority.

The civil aviation ministry has selected 15 persons from Air-India, India Airlines, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and DGCA to go to Kabul to help Afghanistan rebuild its shattered aviation sector following years of civil war (NNI).

#### 14<sup>th</sup> May

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) closed its 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Shanghai as participants painted a guardedly optimistic picture of the regional economy and vowed efforts to help rebuild war-ravaged Afghanistan.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> May

Afghanistan hopes to strike a deal later this month to build a \$2 billion pipeline through the country to take gas from energy-rich Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India (PPI).

#### 16<sup>th</sup> May

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Pakistan and Afghanistan for construction of Highways in Afghanistan (APP)

Afghanistan will continue to receive World Bank support as long as political reform continues apace, assured Bank's president, James Wolfensohn.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> May

European Union's Commission for External Relations, Chris Patten, will visit Afghanistan at the end of the month to assess what further aid is

needed to boost political reforms there, officials said.

Iran's first passenger flight to Kabul landed here at Khajjah Rawash International Airport of Kabul on Wednesday afternoon.

The World Bank resumed operations in Afghanistan after a halt of more than two decades, pledging long-term commitment to rebuild and develop the war-shattered country. World Bank chief James Wolfensohn arrived in the Afghan capital of Kabul for a one-day visit, meeting Karzai to discuss the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

#### 20<sup>th</sup> May

Afghanistan's interim vice president, Hedayat Amin Arsala, said that his country aims to "exploit and export as soon as possible" natural gas and copper.

Neighbors Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran agreed to set up a joint committee to define their common strategies for the economic reconstruction of Post-Taliban Afghanistan.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> May

PIA's inaugural flight would leave here Tuesday for Kabul (Afghanistan), Secretary Defense Lt. Gen. (R) Hamid Nawaz would bid farewell

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> May

The United States has agreed to help train Afghanistan's new police force, interim Interior Minister, Younis Qanooni said (Agencies).

#### 29<sup>th</sup> May

The Oil Ministers of Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan continued deliberations to discuss and finalize the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the pre-feasibility study of the Proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Oil & Gas Pipeline Project.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> May

Afghan Minister for Public Works Abdul Khaliq Fazal described his visit to Iran as "very important and successful" and said mutual ties have entered a new phase with signing of three accords and start of construction work for Dogharoun-Herat transit road.

Afghanistan will soon hold an international tender for the repair of major highways that have

been left potholed, torn by tank tracks and damaged by mines after 23 years of war, reports quoted Afghan reconstruction minister as saying.

### **31<sup>st</sup> May**

The World Food Programme (WFP) has said it had been forced to scale down some food aid programme in Afghanistan because of shortages of cash and food (NNI).

## **Political Development**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> May**

Japanese Foreign Minister, Yoriko Kawaguchi, arrived Afghanistan for talks with interim Afghan leader, Hamid Karzai (AFP).

Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan Sun Yuxi, arrived in Kabul by a UN airplane. At the airport, Sun Yuxi had a brief talk with the officials, who went to the airport to greet him.

Ambassador, Sun, said he would work hard to promote friendship between the Chinese and Afghan People. Sun Yuxi, is the first ambassador plenipotentiary from China to Afghanistan since December 1979.

### **7<sup>th</sup> May**

Afghanistan's former king, Zahir Shah, returned home not to claim back his throne but to share in his people's efforts to rebuild Afghanistan and restore peace to the troubled country, his son said (NNI).

Hashim Utkin, head of the United Nations High commission for Refugees in Pakistan, has said that in less than two months his organization has repatriated 420,000 Afghan refugees.

### **8<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Afghanistan renewed an invitation Tuesday to Iran's President Mohammad Khatami, Iran state radio reported (APP).

### **9<sup>th</sup> May**

Former Afghan diplomat and chief of Rochester (US) based shura, Mohammad Humayoon Shinwari has urged the people from all over Afghanistan to take active part in the Loya Jirga process as it is the sole way return of peace and stability in their motherland.

### **10<sup>th</sup> May**

Foreign Minister of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan will meet in Tehran by the end of this month to review the state of country. Tehran Times reported that the Tri-nation foreign ministerial meeting would be held in Tehran during the last week of the current month.

Fahad Al-Kahtani has been appointed Charged Affairs of the Saudi Embassy in Kabul, which will start functioning with his arrival in the Afghan capital Kabul from Islamabad during the current week.

### **13<sup>th</sup> May**

For the first ever time, a human rights commission is to be established in Afghanistan with the consultative support by the UN to monitor and promote the human rights situation in the country (F.P Report).

Pakistan and Afghanistan resumed their aerial links with the landing of first Afghan Ariana Airlines flight at the Islamabad International Airport after a 23-year gap.

### **14<sup>th</sup> May**

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah has arrived in Lebanon for a 24-hour visit carrying a message from Afghanistan's interim leader Hamid Karzai for President Emile Lahoud. (AFP Report)

### **15<sup>th</sup> May**

UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi gave his backing on the Loya Jirga process to select a transitional government, calling it "reasonably democratic".

### **17<sup>th</sup> May**

Afghanistan's former king Zahir Shah met with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and praised China as a great friend of Afghanistan.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> May**

A conference organized by the Swiss Peace Foundation to discuss the future of Afghanistan has come up with useful recommendations.

The conference, which was set up to formulate recommendations for the upcoming traditional assembly, the Loya Jirga, ended in the Afghan capital Kabul.

The main points addressed in the meeting were the improvement of the security situation, the



Loya Jirga election process, the reform of the Constitution, national reconciliation and the Promotion of human rights including gender Equity.

#### 29<sup>th</sup> May

Former Afghan king Mohammed Zahir Shah has said that he would be ready to accept a nomination to become the country's head of state at next month's Loya Jirga grand assembly.

Women in Kandahar are eager to nominate female representatives to the upcoming grand council in Kabul.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> May

Former Afghan king, Mohammad Zahir Shah, and interim leader, Hamid Karzai, appear to be aligning their destinies ahead of the Loya Jirga traditional assembly, which will choose a new government in June.

Zahir Shah said he would accept a nomination to become the country's head of state and that it was "essential" Hamid Karzai continue to lead the government.

### **Security Matters**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> May

US forces have launched a fresh operation against Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan (AIP).

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> May

United Nations vehicles traveling between Kabul and the principal eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad are to be given armed escorts by the interim government (UN Spokesman).

Warring factions in northern Afghanistan have agreed to form a security commission for Mazar-e-Sharif to defuse tension in the area in the past few days, the UN mission in Afghanistan said.

An Afghan drug trafficker was killed by Russian guards on the Tajik border as he and two others attempted to cross a river separating the two countries, the Russian border guard press service said.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> May

United States and British troops came under rocket attack at the Khost airport in eastern Afghanistan (AIP)

#### 7<sup>th</sup> May

Afghan Defense Minister, Qasim Fahim held talks with his Indian counterpart George Fernandes on future military cooperation and efforts to rebuild his war-ravaged country.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> May

Two Afghan warlords have agreed to withdraw their tanks from the streets of the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif in a bid to ease a tense 10-day stand off, a UN spokesman said (AFP).

Strengthening of defense cooperation, including India's offer to provide training to Afghan army and reconstruction of war-ravaged Afghanistan, figured during extensive discussions between the visiting Afghan Defense Minister General Mohammad Qassem Fahim and the Indian leaders.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> May

Canadian and American forces are searching through the caves of Tora Bora to discover whether Osama bin Laden and his chief lieutenants were killed there during the fierce battle in December (NNI).

#### 10<sup>th</sup> May

At least four rockets slammed eastern Afghanistan's key airport of Jalalabad but no casualties have been reported. (The Afghan Islamic Press).

Military officials from about 20 countries on Thursday opened two days of closed-door discussions on handing over command of the international peacekeeping operation in Afghanistan to Turkey.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> MAY

US special operations forces raided a suspected Taliban or al-Qaeda compound north of Kandahar, killing five people and capturing 32 others (Pentagon spokesman said)

Al Qaeda and the Taliban are on the run, but they retain a powerful network of arms, money and determined fighters that continues to compel U.S-led anti-terrorism forces to prepare for further major offensives, the American commander of coalition troops has said.

### 15<sup>th</sup> May

The US investigative agency FBI has set up forty offices at various places in Pakistan and Afghanistan to arrest and stop the entry of Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters into Pakistan.

Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai visited the headquarters of the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) on Tuesday morning, praising ISAF's work in his country and asking the International force to stay (NNI).

US Special Forces killed five people in a gunfight north of the Afghan city of Kandahar (PPI).

### 17<sup>th</sup> May

The commander of the US forces in Afghanistan, General Tommy Franks, has said that their mission in Afghanistan is not yet over.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Afghan Interim Minister, Yunus Qanooni, has said the security situation in Afghanistan has improved following the collapse of the Taliban regime (SANA)

A candidate for Loya Jirga, which will select a new government next month, assassinated in the western district of Chaghcharan, officials said (NNI)

### 28<sup>th</sup> May

Germany will send 200 more soldiers to Afghanistan, increasing its current peacekeeping contingent in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to 1400 troops (Sana).

Afghan Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim has said that Taliban and Al-Qaeda resistance in Afghanistan had been crushed but could still pose a terrorist threat to next month's Loya Jirga.

### 29<sup>th</sup> May

Bagram Airbase is getting an upgrade. When Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill takes command later this month, Bagram will be the new headquarters directing the ground war in Afghanistan, US military officials said (NNI).

### 30<sup>th</sup> May

Russian border guards shot dead four drug smugglers and seized 75 kilograms of heroin

during a clash on the Afghan-Tajik border, a border guards spokesman told AFP.

The UN said that eight candidates standing for election to next month's traditional assembly or Loya Jirga have been killed over the past weeks. However, the UN spokesman in Afghanistan, Manoel de Almeida e Silva, said there were no firm indications that the killings were politically motivated.

NATO member Norway is pulling its special forces out of Afghanistan in July as part of changes in its international coalition contingent there, the defense ministry announced.

## Other News

### 2<sup>nd</sup> May

An international conference on ways of controlling on synthetic drugs and opiates called on the international community to provide assistance to Afghanistan interim government to effectively combat the cultivation of opium poppy (ANN).

### 6<sup>th</sup> May

Seven persons were killed while another 20 injured when two vehicles carrying Afghan repatriates from Pakistan turned turtle near Torkham border.

IOM will begin voluntary repatriation of migrants stranded in Indonesia in the next two weeks.

### 7<sup>th</sup> May

Cutaneous Leishmaniasis – a disfiguring skin disease has reached epidemic proportions in Afghanistan. The world health organization (WHO) estimates 250,000 are infected with the disease nationwide, with 100,000 in the capital, alone (NNI).

### 9<sup>th</sup> May

Islamabad police has arrested six illegal Afghans in two different encounters.

Russian Companies are adversely affecting the economy of Afghanistan by printing currency notes without legal authorization of the Afghan Interim Administration.